



KLAMATH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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Media Release

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RE: Sheriff's Office Traffic Grant Funds – Labor Day

Contact: Sergeant Ryan Kaber, rkaber@co.klamath.or.us

The Oregon State Sheriff's Association, through the Oregon Department of Transportation, awarded the Klamath County Sheriff's Office grant funds for traffic safety during 2017-18 totaling **\$8,500**. The grant is being used to increase traffic enforcement with focused patrols for Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants (DUII) and Safety Belt violations during the below specified events.

DUII High Visibility Enforcement Events

Grant Amount = **\$5,000**

- Christmas 2017/New Year's 2018 12/13/2017-1/1/2018 – COMPLETED
- Super Bowl 2/4/2018 – COMPLETED
- St. Patrick's Day 3/17/2018 – COMPLETED
- Memorial Day 5/26-28/2018 – COMPLETED
- Independence Day 7/4-8/2018 – COMPLETED
- Klamath County Fair 8/2-5/2018 – COMPLETED
- **Labor Day 8/17-9/3/2018 – SCHEDULED**

This Labor Day, RIDE sober or get pulled over

As the Labor Day holiday marks the official end of summer, people around the country will celebrate one more pool party, backyard barbecue, or community get-together. For the sake of your safety—and everyone else's—it's essential that motorcyclists (and all motorists) practice safe travel habits. Perhaps the most important safety habit is sober riding. This Labor Day, and every day, remember: Ride Sober or Get Pulled Over. Operating a motorcycle requires an enhanced level of focus, coordination, and balance. Compromising your skills by drinking alcohol and riding can be a deadly decision—one that puts not only yourself at risk, but the lives of other road users as well. If you plan on drinking at all, leave your motorcycle out of your plans.

- This Labor Day weekend, the KCSO is partnering with the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) for the

Ride Sober or Get Pulled Over enforcement campaign to keep impaired motorcyclists off the road. The campaign runs August 17 – September 3, 2018.

- According to NHTSA, in 2016 there were 5,286 motorcyclists killed in motor vehicle traffic crashes—a 5% increase from the 5,029 motorcyclists killed in 2015.
- Although motorcycles account for only 3% of vehicles on the road, motorcycle riders are dramatically overrepresented in fatal crashes, especially with alcohol.
- In 2016, motorcycle riders involved in fatal crashes had higher percentages of alcohol impairment than any other type of motor vehicle driver.
- In 2016, the highest percentage of alcohol-impaired motorcycle riders killed in crashes were in the 35-to-39 age group (38%), followed by the 45-to-49 age group (37%), and the 40-to-44 age group (32%).
- In 2016, the reported helmet use rate for alcohol-impaired motorcycle riders killed in crashes was 50%, compared to 65% for those with no alcohol consumed.

Don't let plans get away from you—it's imperative to your safety and the safety of others to plan a responsible ride home from a party. If you leave your house unprepared to get home safely, you may not be in the right frame of mind to make good choices by the end of the night. Here are a few tips to help you prepare for a safe night of fun:

- Always practice motorcycle safety: Wear a DOT-compliant helmet and protective clothing, never ride while distracted, be properly licensed, and don't speed.
- Remember that it's never okay to drink and ride. Even if you've had only one alcoholic beverage, designate a sober driver or use public transportation.
- Download NHTSA's *SaferRide* app from Google Play and iTunes. *SaferRide* allows users to call a taxi or friend and identifies the user's location for pickup.
- If you see a drunk driver on the road, contact 9-1-1.
- Have a friend who is about to drink and ride? Take the keys away and make arrangements to get your friend home safely.

Drunk Driving Comes at a Cost

Drunk driving can cost your life, and it can also cost financially. You could face jail time. Additionally, the cost of a DUI can reach \$10,000. Don't risk it.

More information about motorcycle safety can be found at: www.nhtsa.gov/Safety/Motorcycles.

Safety Belt Blitz Periods

Grant Amount = **\$3,500**

- **Blitz #1 - COMPLETED** **2/5-18/2018 – COMPLETED**
 - *Emphasis: Belts / Child Restraints, Texting and Speed*
- **Blitz #2** **5/14-27/2018 – COMPLETED**
 - *Emphasis: Night Time / Daytime Belts, Minors in Open Pickup Beds, Click It or Ticket Mobilization*
- **Blitz #3** **8/20-9/2/2018 – SCHEDULED**
 - *Emphasis: Child Seats / Fitting Station Referrals, Texting and Speed*

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