



KLAMATH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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Media Release

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RE: Sheriff's Office Traffic Grant Funds – Christmas and New Year's

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

The Oregon State Sheriff's Association and the Oregon Department of Transportation awarded the Klamath County Sheriff's Office grant funds for traffic safety during 2018-19 totaling **\$17,500**. The grant is being used to increase traffic enforcement with focused patrols on Distracted Driving, Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants (DUII), Occupant Protection (Safety Belts), and Speed Enforcement during the below specified events.

Distracted Driving

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

- National Distracted Driving Awareness Month 4/2019 – SCHEDULED

DUII High Visibility Enforcement Events

Grant Amount = **\$2,000**

- Christmas 2018/New Year's 2019 12/13-31/2018 – SCHEDULED
- Super Bowl 2/3/2019 – SCHEDULED
- St. Patrick's Day 3/17/2019 – SCHEDULED
- Memorial Day 5/25-27/2019 – SCHEDULED
- Independence Day 7/4/2019 – SCHEDULED
- Labor Day 8/16-9/2/2019 – SCHEDULED

Occupant Protection (Safety Belt) Blitz Periods

Grant Amount = **\$5,500**

- Blitz #1 2/4-17/2019 – SCHEDULED
- Blitz #2 Click It or Ticket 5/13-6/2/2019 – SCHEDULED
- Blitz #3 8/19-9/1/2019 – SCHEDULED

Speed Enforcement

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

- No scheduled events at this time.

Christmas and New Year's

The end of the year marks the start of the holiday season, a time for parties and gatherings with friends, family, and coworkers. Often, the extra parties mean extra opportunities for festive drinks, with some partygoers finding themselves “buzzed” and without a sober ride home. Just one drink can impair your judgment and increase your risk of getting arrested for driving drunk—or worse, cause a crash if you’re behind the wheel. Many factors determine the effect alcohol has on your body, such as your weight and when you last ate. This holiday season, remember: **Buzzed Driving Is Drunk Driving**. If you plan to go out and enjoy the evening with alcohol, refrain from driving. Review these facts and share the word about the dangers of drunk driving.

Stay Off Santa’s Naughty List: Don’t Drink and Drive.

- According to NHTSA, 37,133 people were killed in traffic crashes in 2017, and 29% of those fatalities involved a driver with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) over the legal limit of .08 grams per deciliter (g/dL).
- Drug-impaired driving is an increasing problem on our nation’s roads. It’s illegal to drive while drug-impaired, period. It’s essential for drivers to understand: **If You Feel Different, You Drive Different**.
- According to NHTSA, 885 people lost their lives in traffic crashes involving a drunk driver during the month of December 2017.
- From 2013 to 2017, there were 4,110 people killed in December crashes that involved drivers with BACs over the legal limit of .08.

Drinking and Driving Will Cost You—Possibly Your Life.

- On average, a DUI can set you back \$10,000 in attorney’s fees, fines, court costs, lost time at work, higher insurance rates, car towing and repairs, and more.
- The financial impact from impaired driving crashes is devastating. Based on 2010 numbers (the most recent year for which cost data is available), impaired-driving crashes cost the United States \$44 billion annually.

Plan a Safe Ride Home Ahead of Time—This Holiday Season, and All Year Round.

Plan ahead. You know whether you’ll attend a party. **If you plan to drink, plan for a sober driver**. Is it your turn to be the designated driver? Take that role seriously—your friends are relying on you.

- Remember that it is never okay to drink and drive. Even if you’ve had only one alcoholic beverage, designate a sober driver or plan to use public transportation or a ride service to get home safely.
- Download NHTSA’s SaferRide mobile app, available on Google Play for Android devices: (<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.nhtsa.SaferRide&hl=en>), and Apple’s iTunes Store for iOS devices: (<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/saferride/id950774008?mt=8>). SaferRide allows users to call a taxi or a predetermined friend, and identifies the user’s location so he or she can be picked up.
- If you see a drunk driver on the road, contact 9-1-1.
- Have a friend who is about to drink and drive? Take the keys away and make arrangements to get your friend home safely.

Keep your holidays happy and safe by letting someone sober do the driving. Remember: **Buzzed Driving Is Drunk Driving & If You Feel Different, You Drive Different**

For more information, visit www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov

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