



KLAMATH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sheriff Chris Kaber

3300 Vandenberg Rd
Klamath Falls, OR 97603
(541) 883-5130
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Media Release

Date: January 6, 2022
Re: Sheriff's Office Traffic Grants
Contact: Sergeant Ryan Kaber
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The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), in association with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHSTA), awarded the Klamath County Sheriff's Office grant funds for traffic safety during 2021-2022 totaling **\$17,000**. The grants are being used to increase traffic enforcement with focused patrols for Distracted Driving, Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants (DUII), Occupant Protection (Safety Belts), Pedestrian Safety and Speed Enforcement during the below specified events.

Distracted Driving

Grant Amount = **\$3,000**

- High Visibility Enforcement Now – 9/30/2022
- National Distracted Driving Awareness Month 4/1 – 4/30/2022

DUII High Visibility Enforcement Events

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

- High Visibility Enforcement Now – 9/30/2022
- ~~Thanksgiving 11/24 – 11/28/2022~~
- ~~Christmas 2021 / New Year's 2022 12/17 – 1/1/2022~~
- Super Bowl 2/13/2022
- Labor Day 8/17 – 9/5/2022

Occupant Protection (Safety Belt) Blitz Periods

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

- High Visibility Enforcement Now – 9/30/2022
- Blitz #1: Belts / Child Restraints 1/31 – 2/13/2022
- Blitz #2: 2022 "Click It or Ticket" (Day/Night) 5/23 – 6/5/2022
- Blitz #3: National Passenger Safety Week 8/22 – 9/24/2022

Pedestrian Safety

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

- High Visibility Enforcement Now – 9/30/2022
- Klamath County Fair 8/4 – 8/7/2022

Speed Enforcement

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

- High Visibility Enforcement Now – 9/30/2022

Visit the Sheriff's Office webpage under Departments at www.klamathcounty.org, and view all releases in the "Media Releases" tab.



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Blitz #1

OREGON SAFETY BELT OVERTIME BLITZ & RECENT OREGON CARSEAT LAW January 31 – February 13, 2022

Beginning Monday, January 31 and extending through Sunday, February 13, law enforcement agencies throughout Oregon will use federally funded overtime to educate the public about safety belt and child seat laws including a law passed in 2017 increasing safety for children under age two.

ODOT crash data for 2019 shows lack of safety belt or child restraint use was a factor in 26% or 81 of a total 308 motor vehicle occupant fatalities. Motor vehicle crashes are the leading nationwide cause of death for children ages one through twelve years old. In 2019, 1,636 children under twelve were injured in Oregon traffic crashes, 10 percent were reported not using a child restraint system. It is estimated that car seats may increase crash survival by 71% for infants under one year old and by up to 59% for toddlers aged one to four.

In 2017 an Oregon law was passed requiring children to ride in a rear-facing safety seat until they are at least two years old. A child over age two must continue to ride in a car seat with harness or in a booster until they reach age eight or 4' 9" in height and the adult belt fits them correctly.

The 2017 law, which extends the rear-facing requirement from the previous age one to age two, will better protect the child's head, neck, and spine from potential crash injuries. This is because a rear-facing seat spreads crash forces evenly across the seat and child's body while also limiting forward or sideways motion of the head.



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