



Tigard Police Department Media Release

13125 SW Hall Boulevard | Tigard, Oregon 97223 | www.tigard-or.gov/police

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE | **February 6, 2017**

Contact:

Jim Wolf, Public Information Officer
Tigard Police Department
Phone: 503-718-2561
Email: jim@tigard-or.gov

Tigard Police Set To Begin Driving Safety Campaign

The Tigard Police Department will once again participate in a nationwide traffic safety campaign to emphasize the importance of proper safety belt use. Additionally the campaign focuses on the perils of distracted driving and unlawful speeding. The program is set to begin on February 6th and continue until February 19th. The two-week long blitz is a multi-jurisdictional approach to help ensure motorists respect, obey and understand the importance of driving safely and the associated responsibilities of operating a motor vehicle.

Tigard Police officers will be focusing on enforcement at various times and days during the campaign. This effort is made possible through dedicated federal funding providing overtime opportunities to carry out the program. Officers will be watching for overall seatbelt compliance along with violations surrounding unlawful cell phone use such as talking or texting while driving as well as speeding.

Recent statistics indicated that Oregon motorists demonstrated 96 per cent compliance regarding passenger vehicle safety belt usage for front-seated occupants; significantly higher than the national average of 90 per cent. While the figures are encouraging, it should be noted that the lack of safety belt use was a major factor in half of all motor vehicle fatalities in Oregon during recent years. Speeding was a factor in 30 per cent of traffic fatalities last year in Oregon and the unlawful use of mobile phones continues to be a frequent factor in crashes as well.

Additional information regarding these safety efforts as well as other information helping to promote safe roads in Oregon can be found at: www.odot.gov or www.nhtsa.gov