



Tigard Police Department Media Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE | June 14, 2017

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Tigard Police Participate in ODOT Traffic Safety Project

The Tigard Police Department continued their effort to bring awareness to the importance of drivers and passengers wearing safety belts while riding in a motor vehicle. The Oregon Safety Belt Enforcement Blitz was made possible through grant dollars awarded to agencies providing overtime opportunities for officers to carry out the program. The two-week long effort that began on May 15th was held to ensure motorists respect, obey and understand the importance of using vehicle safety belts and child safety seats when applicable.

A statewide observation survey conducted in recent years found 98 percent of Oregon's motoring public using safety belts, positioning Oregon as one of the two highest safety belt-use states in the nation. Closer to home, statistics indicated Tigard motorists demonstrated 97 percent compliance regarding passenger vehicle safety belt usage for front-seated occupants. The national average currently stands at just over 80 percent compliance. While these figures are encouraging, it should also be noted that the lack of safety belt usage was a major factor in half of all motor vehicle fatalities in Oregon during recent years.

Overall, during the recent safety campaign, seven citations were issued for violations surrounding safety belt non-compliance. Additionally, 157 citations were issued for speed, driving while suspended and other traffic violations.

Information regarding guidelines and correct usage for child safety seats can be found at www.oregonimpact.org Remember to always buckle-up.