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## **NEWS MEDIA BRIEFING August 11, 2017**

**Event:**

Oregon Department of Transportation Safety Division Seat Belt Blitz

**Location:**

Monmouth, Oregon

**Summary:**

From August 21st through September 3rd the Monmouth Police Department will be joining other law enforcement agencies throughout the state by conducting specialized traffic safety enforcement operations. Law enforcement agencies throughout Oregon will also be working to emphasize the importance of proper safety belt use, including child seat use during a statewide traffic enforcement "blitz". This enhanced enforcement is made possible through grant funding by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and administered by Oregon Department of Transportation.

Oregon law requires belts be used and maintained in working order. When used correctly, safety belts can reduce the risk of major crash injury or death by up to 65%. Safety belts are even more effective when used in combination with airbag systems and other not-so-obvious occupant protection features designed into today's vehicles.

Children weighing less than forty pounds must use a child seat with harness. Children under two years of age must ride in a rear-facing child seat. A child over forty pounds must use either a child seat or booster until they reach age eight or 4'9" tall and the adult belt fits them correctly. A recent study by University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute revealed that "even those adult belt systems with designs most likely to fit children do not fit well when used for children aged six to twelve". For help installing child car seats consult the seat manufacturer's instructions, your vehicle owner's manual, or visit a local child seat fitting station listed at: <http://www.nhtsa.gov/apps/cps/index.htm>.

Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause nationwide of death for children ages one through twelve years old. Child seats may increase crash survival by 71% for infants under one year old and by up to 59% for toddlers aged one to four. Booster seats may reduce the chance of nonfatal injury among four to eight year olds by 45% compared to safety belts used alone.

Officers from the Monmouth Police Department will be working extra hours dedicating time to traffic enforcement and education. We hope that by taking part in this blitz period we can make a difference in our community and state as a whole.

Submitted by  
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Monmouth Police Department