

Prineville Police Department

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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3 Flags Seat Belt Blitz

Prineville, Oregon

When: February 8th through February 20th

The Prineville Police Department in cooperation with the 3 Flags Campaign will be participating in a safety belt enforcement blitz. The Prineville Police Department will also be stepping up education efforts on child safety restraint laws and proper use of child restraints.

Lack of safety belt use was a major factor in half of all Oregon motor vehicle occupant deaths last year. One in three children under age eight killed or injured in crashes were using adult belt systems (205 children) or were totally unrestrained (14 children) rather than riding in a child seat appropriate for their size. Speeding and impairment were the other most common causes of injury crashes. Consistent safety belt use is the single most effective way to protect people and reduce fatalities in motor vehicle crashes, according to the US Department of Transportation.

Oregon Law requires:

“Proper use” is required by Oregon law and means using the entire belt system, lap belt low across hips, and shoulder belt over collarbone and crossing center of chest. Belts should be free of slacks and lying flat with no twist or knots. Shoulder belts should NOT be placed under the arm or behind the back-this can cause serious internal injuries or ejection in a crash.

A child weighting less than 40 pounds must be restrained in a child safety seat. A child under one year of age or weighing less than 20 pounds must be restrained in a child seat rear-facing. A child over forty pounds but under age eight or less than 4’9 tall must be restrained in a booster seat that elevates them so the lap/shoulder belts fit correctly.

While it is not the law in Oregon, it is strongly recommended that children age twelve and under ride in rear seating positions. Research indicated that such rear seating reduces the risk of injury by 37% for that age group.

Eric Bush

Chief of Police

