



Prineville Police Department

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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3 Flags Seat Belt Blitz

Prineville, Oregon

When: September 8th through September 21st

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

During 2007 in Oregon, 838 child passengers under age eight were killed or injured in motor vehicle crashes (ODOT Crash analysis and reporting)

- Over 42% of these children crash victims were NOT using child restraints. This means drivers either placed them prematurely into an adult lap and shoulder belt (231 children) or left the child totally unrestrained (16 children) – in violation of Oregon Law (ORS 811.210).
- Improperly restrained children are 3.5 times more likely to be seriously injured in a crash than their properly restrained counterparts.
- Nationwide since 1990 there have been 164 child fatalities related to airbags. Almost all the children were either unrestrained or improperly restrained.

- For children injured in crashes the most common injuries area head, neck, and spinal injuries which often result in life long disabilities.
- Using the correct type of child restraint for a child's size can reduce the chance of crash injury estimated 71% for infants, 54% for toddlers, and 59% for children in boosters.
- Once a child has outgrown their car seat, a booster sear should be used until safety belts fit correctly, usually not until the child reaches 4'9" in height or is 8 years old.
- Oregon Law requires:
 - a. Children less than forty pounds- Properly restrained in a car seat; rear-facing if the child is less than one year of age or weighs less than twenty pounds.
 - b. Children over forty pounds- Properly secured by a booster sear using in combination with a lap and shoulder belt until the child reaches age eight or 4'9" tall.

Eric Bush
Chief of Police