



## Tigard Police Department NEWS RELEASE

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### **Upcoming Safety Belt Enforcement**

Tigard Police officers will join other police agencies throughout Oregon in using federally-funded overtime for an upcoming safety belt enforcement from Monday, January 31 – Sunday, February 13th.

The goal is to educate the public about safety belt and child seat laws, including a law passed in Oregon in 2017 that requires children to ride in a rear-facing safety seat until they are at least two years old. This better protects a child's head, neck and spine from potential crash injuries.

In addition to the 2017 law, families should also know:

- A child over the age of two must continue to ride in a car seat with a harness or in a booster seat until they reach age eight or a height of 4'9" when an adult seat belt fits them correctly.
- Car seats and booster seats save lives.
  - Car seats may increase crash survival by 71% for infants under one year old and by up to 59% for toddlers ages 1-4.\*
  - Booster seats may reduce the chance of non-fatal injury among kids ages 4-8 by 45% compared to safety belts used alone.\*
- For help selecting or installing a car seat, find a local child seat fitting station at [https://oregonimpact.org/child\\_passenger\\_safety](https://oregonimpact.org/child_passenger_safety).

Proper seat belt use for adults is just as critical. In 2019, nearly half (47%) of the people killed in car crashes in the U.S. were not wearing seat belts.\*

\*Data provided by the Oregon Department of Transportation.

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