



## Tigard Police Department NEWS RELEASE

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### **SEAT BELT ENFORCEMENT STARTS TODAY**

Tigard Police officers will be joining other agencies across Oregon in a “Click It or Ticket” seat belt enforcement from Monday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> – Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup>.

Through federally-funded overtime hours, officers will be focusing on proper use of seat belts and car seats for children:

- Kids under the age of 2 must use a rear-facing car seat.
- Children over the age of 2 must continue to ride in a car seat with a harness or in a booster seat until they reach age 8 or 4’9” in height, when an adult seat belt fits correctly.

The simple act of buckling up clearly saves lives. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA):

- The national seat belt use rate in 2020 was 90.3%, which is good — but we can do better. The other 9.7% still need to be reminded that seat belts save lives.
- Nearly half (47%) of the people killed in car crashes in the U.S. in 2019 were not wearing seat belts.
- Among young adults 18 to 34 killed in passenger vehicle crashes in 2020, more than half (60%) were completely unrestrained — one of the highest percentages for all age groups.
- Additionally, car crashes are the leading nationwide cause of death for children ages 1-12. It’s estimated that car seats may increase crash survival by 71% for infants and by up to 59% for toddlers ages 1-4.

This special enforcement is made possible thanks to funds from NHTSA that are administered through the Oregon Department of Transportation.

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