



# Tigard Police Department Media Release

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**Contact:**

Stefanie Kouremetis, Community Engagement Program Coordinator

Tigard Police Department

Phone: 503-718-2814

Email: [stefanie.kouremetis@tigard-or.gov](mailto:stefanie.kouremetis@tigard-or.gov)

## **Tigard Police Participate in Seat Belt Enforcement Campaign**

From May 20, 2019 to June 2, 2019, the Tigard Police Department (TPD) is participating in a national seat-belt enforcement campaign. This annual campaign is part of the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's *Click It or Ticket* high-visibility enforcement effort. The intent of *Click It or Ticket* is to save lives. In 2017, there were 10,076 unbuckled passenger vehicle occupants killed in crashes in the United States.

During the campaign, TPD Traffic Safety Officers will work overtime on seat-belt enforcement thanks to a grant awarded by the Oregon Department of Transportation. Where officers observe other unsafe driving behaviors during this effort, they will be able to intervene. During the *Click It or Ticket* campaign in February 2019, TPD officers cited 61 motorists for speeding as well as issued nine other citations and nine warnings.

Recent surveys of Tigard motorists demonstrated that nearly 96% of front-seat occupants in passenger vehicles complied with seat-belt laws. The national average is just over 90%. While the compliance rates are impressive, the lack of seat-belt use has been a factor in numerous motor vehicle fatalities in Oregon during recent years.

Please find the Click It or Ticket Fact Sheet below. For more information on this campaign, please visit: [www.nhtsa.gov/ciot](http://www.nhtsa.gov/ciot).



## **2019 *Click It or Ticket***

### **Products for Enforcement Action Kit: Fact Sheet**

#### **Be Part of the Progress**

- From May 20-June 2, 2019, State and local law enforcement agencies across the Nation are stepping up enforcement to crack down on motorists who aren't wearing their seat belts.
- For this year's *Click It or Ticket* seat belt mobilization effort, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) is asking all States to participate in the kickoff event, *Border to Border* (B2B), a one-day national seat-belt awareness event coordinated by participating State highway safety offices and their respective law enforcement liaisons. The B2B program aims to increase law enforcement participation by coordinating highly visible seat belt enforcement and providing seat belt fact sheets for drivers at heavily traveled, highly visible State border checkpoints.

#### **Enforce Lifesaving Laws**

- *Click It or Ticket* isn't about citations; it's about saving lives. In 2017, there were 10,076 unbuckled passenger vehicle occupants killed in crashes in the United States. To help prevent crash fatalities, we need to step up enforcement and crack down on those who don't wear their seat belts.
- Seat belt use is required by law for a reason: In 2017, seat belts saved an estimated 14,955 lives of occupants 5 and older. From 2013 to 2017, seat belts saved nearly 69,000 lives.
- If all passenger vehicle occupants 5 and older involved in fatal crashes had worn their seat belts, an additional 2,549 lives could have been saved in 2017 alone.

#### **Face the Facts**

- The national seat belt use rate in 2017 was 89.7 percent, which is good—but we can do better. The other 10.3 percent still need to be reminded that seat belts save lives.
- Among young adults 18 to 34 killed in crashes in 2017, more than half (57%) were completely unrestrained—one of the highest percentages for all age groups.
- Men make up the majority of those killed in motor vehicle traffic crashes. In 2017, 65 percent of the 23,551 passenger vehicle occupants who were killed were men. It comes as no surprise that men wear their seat belts at a lower rate than women do—51 percent of men killed in crashes were unrestrained, compared to 39 percent of women.



- High-visibility seat belt enforcement is important 24 hours a day, but nighttime is especially deadly for unbuckled occupants. In 2017, 55 percent of passenger vehicle occupants killed at night (6 p.m.-5:59 a.m.) were not wearing their seat belts.

### **Bust the Myths**

- **Vehicle type:** There seems to be a misconception among those who drive and ride in pickup trucks that their large vehicles will protect them better than other vehicles would in a crash. The numbers say otherwise: 59 percent of pickup truck occupants who were killed in 2017 were not buckled. That's compared to 42 percent of passenger car occupants who were not wearing seat belts when they were killed. Regardless of vehicle type, seat belt use is the single most effective way to stay alive in a crash.
- **Seating position:** Too many people wrongly believe they are safe in the back seat unrestrained. Forty-six percent of all front-seat passenger vehicle occupants killed in crashes in 2017 were unrestrained, but 56 percent of those killed in back seats were unrestrained.
- **Rural versus urban locations:** People who live in rural areas might believe that their crash exposure is lower, but in 2017, there were 12,786 passenger vehicle fatalities in rural locations, compared to 10,316 fatalities in urban locations. Out of those fatalities, 49 percent of those killed in the rural locations were not wearing their seat belts, compared to 44 percent in urban locations.

### ***Click It or Ticket—Day and Night***

- High-visibility seat belt enforcement is important 24 hours a day, but nighttime is especially deadly for unbuckled occupants. In 2017, 55 percent of passenger vehicle occupants killed at night (6 p.m.-5:59 a.m.) were not wearing their seat belts.

Learn more about the *Click It or Ticket* mobilization at [www.nhtsa.gov/ciot](http://www.nhtsa.gov/ciot).