



NEWS RELEASE

Russel Burger, Sheriff
Lane County Sheriff's Office
125 East 8th Avenue
Eugene, OR 97401
(541) 682-4150 / FAX (541) 682-4522
Email: sheriffs.office@co.lane.or.us

DATE/TIME OF INCIDENT: 02-13-09

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NATURE OF STORY: Dunes Patrol/Minor in Possession of Alcohol

LOCATION: Sand dunes, north and south of Florence

DETAILS:

On Friday night, 02/13/09, a Lane County Sheriff's Deputy organized a night-time patrol to attempt to address the growing problem of dangerous MIP parties occurring in and around his patrol area of the sand dunes north and south of the city of Florence. The Deputy had received referrals from Florence Police and DHS Child Welfare due to a recent incident when a teenage male was struck in the face by an exploding pressurized can of body spray which had been thrown into the bonfire at an MIP party near the South Jetty.

Our Deputy was joined by two Reserve Deputies, as well as our BLM Contract Deputy and two BLM Law Enforcement Officers. Shortly after 2100 hours, contacts with young people were being made on South Jetty Road, one of which was the suspect in an Assault IV case (recklessly causing injury) from the body spray can. This same young man was out on South Jetty Road with a vehicle full of beer and champagne. Shortly after the contacts started being made on South Jetty Road, Deputies began contacting vehicles as they drove to the end of North Jetty Road. At least two of these were identified as having just left the South Jetty. They were both quite surprised to find additional Sheriff's Deputies on the North Jetty.

At 2330 hours all the involved personnel went to a residence on 05596 Canary Road and contacted a party of approximately 50 young people. A number of MIP's were given out, parents called, and two Furnishing Alcohol to Minors arrests were made. The thermal device recently acquired from the Federal government Surplus Program is credited with two captures.

Once again our agency, struggling as it is due to constant funding hardships, was able to pull together enough resources to make a targeted impact in an effort to protect the community and maybe save the lives of a few young people. Special thanks go out to the Reserve deputies!

For additional information contact: Lt. Randy Smith