

## **NEWS RELEASE**



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**DATE/TIME OF RELEASE: 08/21/2009**

**NATURE OF STORY: Fatal Traffic Crash Statistics**

**LOCATION: Lane County**

### **DETAILS:**

**In figures recently released by the Oregon Department of Transportation, Lane County registered more fatalities in traffic crashes than any other county in Oregon. In 2008, 33 people died in crashes in Lane County. Clackamas County had 30 fatalities and Douglas, Washington and Multnomah counties each had 27.**

**In Lane County, 16 fatalities occurred on state highways, 13 on county roads and 4 on city streets. Speed was determined to be a contributing factor in 12 of the 33 Lane County deaths; and, almost half of the 33 involved alcohol or other intoxicants.**

**Although Lane County had more traffic crash fatalities than any other Oregon county, the number represents a 23% decrease in the number of deaths from 2007 (down from 43) and 34% fewer than 2006 (50). A number of factors can impact fatalities in a given year including weather anomalies and reduced driving due to high gasoline prices or other economic factors.**

**Due to budget restrictions that resulted in layoffs, the Lane County Sheriff's Office has been forced to reduce the number of traffic deputies from 21 to 10 over the last 15 months. Despite these challenges, the Sheriff's Office remains committed to the safety of the motoring public and the enforcement of traffic laws, particularly those offenses such as DUII, speeding, occupant restraint violations and all aggressive driving behaviors.**

**Prepared by: Capt. William Thompson**