



Kitsap County Traffic Safety Task Force

3951 NW Randall Way, Silverdale, WA 98383
Phone: (360)337-4647 Fax: (360)307-9818
Carolyn Pence, Coordinator

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 15, 2008

For Further Information Contact:

Carolyn Pence, Coordinator, Kitsap County Traffic Safety Task Force
Kitsap County Sheriff's Office
360-377-4647

Today the Kitsap County Traffic Safety Task Force announced that its member agencies will participate in the statewide strategy known as "X-52" *Extra Patrols Every Week*. The participating law enforcement agencies in Kitsap County, including the Washington State Patrol, will have extra traffic officers out in force starting the week of February 18, 2008, conducting special patrols for speeding and impaired driving.

The extra patrols are funded through a grant from the Washington Traffic Safety Commission, with Kitsap County agencies receiving over \$17,000 in extra federal funding for X-52 enforcement.

This is part of the greater effort of the WTSC's statewide strategy known as X-52, which is an effort to reduce fatal and serious injury collisions by providing extra traffic patrols throughout the state 52 weeks a year.

"There's a lot of research in other states that shows results from sustained emphasis patrols versus short-term efforts such as 'Drive Hammered, Get Nailed' or 'Click It or Ticket,'" said Lowell Porter, director of the state Traffic Safety Commission.

The Kitsap County Traffic Safety Task Force includes the Sheriff's Office, municipal law enforcement agencies and the Washington State Patrol. The intent of X-52 is to have officers from all of these agencies saturate areas that are known to have speed and DUI problems. For example, if you are breaking the law in Port Orchard, do not be surprised if a Poulsbo PD Officer cites or arrests you.

During the twelve traffic safety emphasis patrols conducted in 2007 alone, officers from the Task Force member agencies reported over 1600 contacts with over 35% of those contacts being related to impaired driving and speeding.

In 2007, Kitsap County suffered 22 fatality collisions on our roadways. Half of those collisions involved speed. Our hope is that X-52 will get the message out that slowing down saves lives. #####

The mission of the Kitsap County Traffic Safety Task Force is to reduce the number and severity of traffic related deaths and injuries within Kitsap County.