

## **Media Release**

The Kootenai County Sheriff's Department is conducting a seat belt / impaired driving emphasis for the Kootenai County area. The emphasis is sponsored by the Idaho Transportation Department, Office of Highway Operations and Safety. During the dates of November 13 through November 25, 2007, Kootenai County Deputies will be conducting emphasis patrols at various locations around the County, strictly enforcing seat belt violations and impaired driver laws to help reduce the number in injury accidents for our County.

In 2006, there were 110 impaired driving fatalities in the State of Idaho. Over 41% of all Idaho fatalities were the result of an impaired driving crash and 69% of those killed were not restrained.

The goal of the Kootenai County Sheriff's Department participation in the mobilization is to support the statewide highway safety goal of reducing motor vehicle related deaths and serious injuries by increasing the use of safety restraints and increasing impaired driving arrests.

Please help us in our endeavors by using designated drivers and ensuring all occupants of motor vehicles are using proper safety restraints while on the roadways.

Sheriff Rocky Watson