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Slow down: winter weather, longer nights, busy holidays increase likelihood of crashes

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The Lane County Sheriff's Office and Lane County transportation planners are reminding drivers to slow down and make sure everyone makes it home this holiday season.

“This is the most dangerous time of year for drivers due to fewer daylight hours, slippery road conditions, more movement of game animals, and winter weather such as snow and ice,” said Lane County Sheriff Cliff Harrold. “While we can't control when it freezes or when that deer steps out onto the road, we can control our speed which has a direct impact on how long it takes to stop your car and whether those involved in a crash survive.”

Lane County has been near the top of the list for the number of fatal crashes compared to other Oregon counties for several years. In 2018, there were 7 fatal crashes on county roads, and we have already seen 12 fatalities on County roads in 2019 – six of those in September alone.

Two short public service announcement-style videos from Sheriff Cliff Harrold encouraging drivers to slow down are available for use:

- [45-Second Version](#)
- [30-Second Version](#)

About Toward Zero Deaths

Transportation safety is a significant public health issue and priority in Lane County. In 2017, Lane County joined the National Strategy on Highway Safety, known as [Toward Zero Deaths](#), and adopted a countywide [Transportation Safety Action Plan](#) to proactively respond to fatal and severe-injury collisions. Most fatal collisions are roadway departures involving excessive speed and are preventable.

More information about Lane County's efforts to improve road safety can be found at lanecounty.org/towardzerodeaths.

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Lane County Government will responsibly manage available resources to deliver vital, community-centered services with passion, drive and focus.