



SHERIFF KOOTENAI COUNTY



SHERIFF **BEN WOLFINGER**

UNDERSHERIFF **DAN MATTOS**

Media Release May 5, 2017

Kootenai County, Idaho – Distracted driving emphasis by Kootenai County Sheriff's deputies nets numerous violations.

On Wednesday May 3, 2017, members of the Sheriff's Traffic Team and Patrol Division conducted a special enforcement patrol for distracted drivers along the Prairie Avenue and U.S. Highway 95 corridor near Hayden, Idaho.

This patrol featured both marked and unmarked patrol vehicles that coordinated with each other by radio to detect and contact drivers whose driving pattern was impaired by distractions inside their vehicle, which included texting while driving.

During the detail, deputies made over twenty-five contacts and issued twenty citations. Most of the citations were for texting while driving, but other dangerous driving patterns were observed and stopped. It was worthy of note that even when all the marked units were busy on traffic stops, the number of violations observed by the unmarked vehicle still actively patrolling nearly doubled the current traffic stops. It is the hope of the Kootenai County Sheriff's Office that these types of enforcement patrols will help reduce the number of distracted driving crashes in our county, which occur almost daily.

The Sheriff's Office would like to remind drivers to focus on the roadway while operating a motor vehicle and to also use their seat belts. Not only does it save lives, it's the law. The Kootenai County Sheriff's Office, in conjunction with the Idaho Transportation Department Office of Highway Safety, will also be participating in a Click it or Ticket Seat Belt mobilization May 22 – June 4, 2017, which will be in conjunction with the 2017 National Seat Belt Enforcement Campaign.

Ben Wolfinger, Sheriff
By: Lieutenant Stu Miller