

NEWS RELEASE

5/3/2007

WHATCOM COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY TASK FORCE

Bellingham Police
Department 676-6920

Blaine Police
Department 332-6769

Everson Police
Department 966-4212

Ferndale Police
Department
384-3390

Lummi Nation Police
Department 384-0945

Lynden Police
Department
354-2828

Sumas Police
Department
988-5711

Washington State Patrol
676-2007

Whatcom County
Sheriff's Office 676-6650

WWU Police
Department 650-3555

Traffic Fines Increase – Watch Out For School Zones

Across Washington State, traffic fines have increased. These increases affect drivers throughout the state, including Whatcom County. Most infractions will see a modest gain. For example, failing to wear a seatbelt has risen from \$101 to \$112. The exception to the nominal climb is in school zones. Previously, speeding in a school zone resulted in a flat \$177 fine. The new schedule has a scale that begins at \$177 for speeds of 1 – 5 mph over the speed limit, and tops out at a substantial \$772 for 36 – 40 mph over the speed limit. The new fine schedule took effect on Monday, April 30, 2007. The Whatcom County Traffic Safety Task Force encourages Whatcom County motorists to stay alert to their surroundings, observe posted speed limits and remain cautious through school zones.

New Fine Schedule for Speeding

Speed RCW 46.61.400(2)	40 MPH or less	Over 40 MPH	School Zone RCW 46.61.440
1-5 MPH over limit	\$101	\$81	\$177
6-10 MPH over limit	\$112	\$101	\$198
11-15 MPH over limit	\$142	\$132	\$259
16-20 MPH over limit	\$183	\$163	\$341
21-25 MPH over limit	\$235	\$194	\$444
26-30 MPH over limit	\$286	\$235	\$546
31-35 MPH over limit	\$337	\$286	\$649
36-40 MPH over limit	\$399	\$337	\$772
Over 40 MPH over limit	\$399	\$399	

If members of media are interested in doing a ride-along with law enforcement within Whatcom County, please call Doug Dahl, Traffic Safety Program Coordinator, Whatcom County Sheriff's Office at (360) 398-2812.

The Whatcom County Traffic Safety Task Force is a cooperative effort of law enforcement agencies in Whatcom County committed to the prevention of traffic collisions on all streets, roads and highways within Whatcom County. Coordination is a function of the Traffic Safety Program, Whatcom County Sheriff's Office. Doug Dahl, Coordinator 360-398-2812, Sgt. Steve Gatterman, Manager.