



PRESS RELEASE

From the office of:
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Current Time

**ANOKA COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES
REMIND YOU TO BUCKLE UP FOR SAFETY**
Extra Seat Belt Enforcement in October

[Andover, Anoka County] – Anoka County Sheriff's deputies along with officers from Anoka, Blaine, Centennial Lakes, Columbia Heights, Coon Rapids, Fridley, Lino Lakes, Ramsey, St Francis, and Spring Lake Park Police Departments, are conducting increased *Click It or Ticket* seat belt patrols during one of the state's largest belt enforcement campaigns of the year, October 14-27. The campaign aims to increase belt use to stop preventable deaths and injuries.

In Anoka County during the last three years, 9 unbelted motorists were killed and 33 were seriously injured. Statewide during this same period, 409 unbelted motorists were killed and 814 suffered serious, life-altering injuries.

Seat belts must be worn correctly – low and snug across the hips; shoulder straps should never be tucked under an arm or behind the back.

“Believe us, the last thing we want to do is write seat belt tickets,” says Lt. Shelly Orlando. “That’s why we are reminding motorists to buckle up. We want you to avoid meeting us, and more importantly, avoid getting hurt or killed.”

The enforcement effort will also include a nighttime seat belt enforcement focus. Each year, more than 60 percent of the nighttime fatalities (9 p.m. – 3 a.m.) are not buckled up.

Anoka County law enforcement officers will enforce the state's primary seat belt law during the effort. The primary law requires passengers in all seating positions, including the back seat, to be buckled up or seated in the correct child restraint. Officers will stop and ticket unbelted drivers or passengers.

The campaign will also include enforcement of Minnesota's strengthened child passenger safety law which requires children to use a booster seat after they have outgrown a forward-facing harnessed restraint. Children should remain in a booster until they are age 8 or 4'9" tall – whichever comes first. It is recommended to keep a child in a booster based on their height. Boosters help adult seat belts fit children correctly.

The *Click It or Ticket* seat belt enforcement campaign is a component of the state's Toward Zero Death (TZD) initiative. A primary vision of the *TZD* program is to create a safe driving culture in Minnesota in which motorists support a goal of zero road fatalities by practicing and promoting safe and smart driving behavior. *TZD* focuses on the application of four strategic areas to reduce crashes – education, enforcement, engineering and emergency trauma response.

Click It or Ticket. Day & Night.