



West Melbourne Police Department Launches
Click It or Ticket To Help Save Lives
Enforcement Blitz ‘Buckling Down’
On Those Not Buckled Up—Day and Night

(West Melbourne, FL) - During 2007, more than 14,000 people in passenger vehicles died in crashes while unbelted. About half of these lives could have been saved if they had been wearing seat belts at the time of the crash. As sad as this statistic is, the numbers are even worse at night than during the day, according to new figures released by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Nationwide in 2007, 14,464 passenger vehicle occupants died in highway crashes during evening and night-time hours (6 p.m. to 5:59 a.m.), and fully 63 percent of those killed in crashes (8,319) were not wearing their seat belts. By contrast, during daylight hours, 45 percent (5,917) of those killed were not wearing seat belts.

That’s why West Melbourne Police Department is joining state and local law enforcement agencies and highway safety groups in supporting an aggressive *Click It or Ticket* seat belt enforcement campaign from March 1-15. Police will be ticketing unbelted vehicle occupants around the clock—night and day.

“Consistent research has shown that fewer people are buckling up at night, when the risk of a being in a fatal crash is greatest.” said Sgt Jennifer Dick. “That’s why West Melbourne Police Department’s police officers will be out in force at night as well as during the day to make sure that drivers and passengers take seat belts, and seat belt laws, seriously.”

Sgt Dick added that regular seat belt use is the single most effective way to protect people and reduce fatalities in motor vehicle crashes. She noted that, when worn correctly, seat belts have been proven to reduce the risk of fatal injury to front-seat passenger car occupants by 45 percent, and by 60 percent in pickup trucks, SUVs and minivans.

Seat belts are the single most effective piece of safety equipment in a vehicle, yet NHTSA observational studies show that nearly one out of five Americans still fails to wear a seat belt when driving or riding in a motor vehicle.

Stepped-up law enforcement activities will be conducted during the 2010 *Click It or Ticket* mobilization period from March 1-15. “Seat belts clearly save lives. But, unfortunately, too many folks still need a tough reminder, so we are going to be out in force day and night in 2010 buckling down on those who are not buckled up,” said **Sgt Dick**.

Wearing your seat belt costs you nothing, but not wearing it will. So unless you want to risk a ticket, or worse, your life, please remember to buckle up night and day. Don’t forget, *Click It or Ticket* isn’t just a campaign slogan, it’s a promise!

For more information, please visit www.nhtsa.gov .