



STATE OF DELAWARE
OFFICE OF HIGHWAY SAFETY
P.O. BOX 1321
DOVER, DELAWARE 19903-1321
302-672-7642
www.ohs.delaware.gov

NEWS RELEASE

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 19, 2009

CONTACT: Andrea Summers

Community Relations Officer
672-7642 (w) 943-7293 (c)

905 Cited for Seat Belt Violations In First Week of Click It or Ticket

Dover – In the first week of a statewide effort to save lives by increasing seat belt use, officers statewide have issued 905 citations to unbelted drivers and/or passengers as part of the 2009 Click It or Ticket campaign. Click it or Ticket is a nationwide high visibility enforcement and public awareness campaign aimed at saving lives by increasing the number of motorists who regularly buckle up.

During the campaign, thirty State, County and Municipal police agencies are conducting stepped up daily enforcement in the form of traffic safety checkpoints and patrols. In addition to the 905 citations issued for seat belt violations, officers also cited 48 individuals for failing to properly secure children in an appropriate child restraint according to Delaware law.

While conducting enforcement, officers have also made arrests for several other significant violations. Among them were 204 for speeding, 7 for DUI, 14 for drugs, 2 for underage drinking violations, the apprehension of 24 wanted individual, 2 felony arrests, and the seizure of a concealed deadly weapon. Three of the speed arrests were for drivers going in excess of 80 miles per hour...two of them on 55 mph roadways and 1 for a motorcyclist clocked at 83 mph on a 45 mph roadway. One of the DUI arrests was for a fourth offense DUI. The drug arrests included possession of marijuana, cocaine and ecstasy.

Despite an all time high statewide seat belt use rate of 91%, nearly three quarters of drivers and passengers killed in Delaware traffic crashes so far this year have not been buckled up. Additionally, 75% of the crashes where an unbelted driver or passenger has been killed in a crash this year were the result of an impaired or speeding driver. National studies show that wearing a seat belt improves your chances of surviving a crash by up to 50%. Campaign enforcement will continue through Memorial Day.

Delaware law requires drivers and *all* passengers, including those in the back seat, to wear a seat belt. An officer can pull over a driver if he sees any person not wearing one. Officers will be issuing citations for seat belt violations as part of a zero tolerance policy. The ticket, which goes to the driver no matter who is unbuckled in the vehicle, is a \$25.00 fine plus court administrative fees, which can eventually total as much as \$70.00.

Enforcement is being accompanied by a statewide public awareness effort in the form of billboards, radio, T.V., print and internet advertising.

For more information on the campaign, enforcement results and a look at updated campaign materials, please visit www.ohs.delaware.gov and click on the Click It or Ticket button on the website.

###