

**Traffic Safety News**  
**From the Delaware Office of Highway Safety**  
**February 2010**



**Buckle Up. Arrive Alive DE.**

Did you know there's a difference in the number of people who wear their seat belts at night versus during the daytime? Nationally, seat belt use is often 10% lower at night than in the day even though a person's chances of being killed in a crash at night triples! This month we are focusing on Occupant Protection.

**What you need to know**

In an effort to increase the number of people who buckle up both day and night, the Delaware Office of Highway Safety is coordinating a pre-cursor to May's *Click It or Ticket* campaign for 2010 during the last week of February. *Click It or Ticket* is a high visibility enforcement and public awareness campaign aimed at saving lives by increasing the number of Delawareans who regularly buckle up.

- During this time you can expect to see increased night time enforcement of Delaware's seat belt laws. Police statewide will be conducting both night time Traffic Safety Checkpoints to check for seat belt violators, as well as roving patrols.
- Delaware's law requires everyone in the vehicle, including the driver and all passengers, even those in the back seat, to buckle up. The fine for violations is \$25, plus court processing costs.
- Last February during the night time *Click It or Ticket* initiative, police officers statewide issued 393 citations for violations of Delaware's seat belt law.
- More than half of the people killed in night time crashes last year in the First State were not wearing seat belts.

## **What you can do**

There are a few things that you can do to avoid unnecessary traffic fines and ensure the safety of everyone in your vehicle:

- Everyone in the vehicle must be restrained at all times.
- Make sure that you are “properly” buckled up. “Properly” means that both lap and shoulder belts are worn. The shoulder belt must be worn across the chest. Anyone who puts the shoulder belt under their arm or behind their back is in violation of the law.
- You are responsible for making sure all children in the vehicle are properly buckled up. All children under the age of 8 or 65 lbs must be in the proper child safety seat.
- All children under the age of 12 must ride in the back seat when passenger air bags are present in the front.

***One last tip-*** Whether you are driving a long distance or just around the corner, always make sure that you and your passengers are buckled up. *It could save your life.*

*This information is being sent to you from the Office of Highway Safety, who ask you to please drive safely at all times. For more information on this and other highway safety programs, visit [www.ohs.delaware.gov](http://www.ohs.delaware.gov).*