



Traffic Safety News

From the Delaware Office of Highway Safety

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Did you know that in Delaware 9 out of every 10 people are buckling up? It's true. So why is OHS partnering with Delaware Law Enforcement again this month to enforce the seatbelt laws-specifically at night? The answer is simple: To save lives.

What you need to know

Fewer people wear their seatbelts at night than in the daytime, often 10% less. In 2009, just 23% of drivers and passengers killed in night time crashes after 9 p.m. were buckled up. And in 2010, more than a third of fatal crashes (35%) involving an unrestrained driver or passenger occurred during night time hours. Not surprisingly, this time frame also happens to be when the riskiest drivers are on the road. Here are some things that you need to know:

- 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. Total fines could be \$70 or even more in some municipalities. The ticket goes to the driver no matter who is unbuckled in the vehicle.
- During the week of Feb 20th, you can expect to see increased night time enforcement of Delaware's seat belt laws. Police statewide will be conducting night time Traffic Safety Checkpoints to check for seat belt violators, as well as roving patrols.

What you can do

Whether you are driving a long distance or just around the corner, always make sure that you and your passengers are buckled up. Remember to keep **Everyone Properly Secured and Safe**:

- **Everyone.** Make sure that everyone in the vehicle is restrained at all times.
- **Properly.** Both the lap and shoulder belts must be worn, across the hips and across the chest. The law requires you wear your seat belt properly.
- **Secured.** 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.
- **And Safe.** Remember, all children under the age of 12 must ride in the back seat when passenger air bags are present in the front.

This message is brought to you by the Office of Highway Safety, who asks you to drive safely at all times. For more information on this and other traffic safety programs, go to www.ohs.delaware.gov.