



Traffic Safety News

From the Delaware Office of Highway Safety

May 2011

Across Delaware 9 out of every 10 motorists are choosing to buckle up. Our seatbelt use rate is at an all-time high, 91%. But, what if you know the 1 person out of 10 who is not buckling up? What if it is your brother, or father, or son ... what if it's your own grandmother? What if that person is you?

What you need to know

This May we are celebrating the 10th Anniversary of Delaware's Click It or Ticket Campaign. Through it we have increased seat belt use from 71% to 91%...an amazing accomplishment! Despite the increase, data indicates that fewer people wear their seat belts at night than in the daytime. 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:

- Under Delaware law, every person in the vehicle is required to wear a seat belt at all times, even back seat passengers.
- The driver is responsible for ensuring all passengers are buckled up. Total fines assessed to the driver can reach over \$70.00.

What you can do

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, seat belts save over 13,000 lives every year. One of them could be yours. Whether you are the driver or a passenger, here are some tips to help you buckle up safely every time you get in the car:

- Place the shoulder belt across the middle of your chest and away from your neck.
- Adjust the lap belt below your stomach, low and snug across your hips.
- Never put the shoulder belt behind your back or under an arm.

Remember, buckling up is the single most effective thing that you can do to protect yourself in a crash. For more information on this and other traffic safety programs, go to www.ohs.delaware.gov.

Click It or Ticket. Arrive Alive DE.

This message is being sent 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.