Dennis Graham
Chief of Police

Milpitas Police Department

PRESS RELEASE

Click It or Ticket to Boost Seat Belt Use – Day and Night

Motorists who refuse to wear their seat belts – beware.

The 2012 start-of-summer *Click It or Ticket* seat belt enforcement mobilization kicks off May 21, 2012 to help save lives by cracking down on those who don't buckle up. The Milpitas Police Department is joining with other state and local law enforcement officers to help save more lives by strongly enforcing seat belt laws around the clock. Seat belts are the most effective piece of life saving equipment on your car.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), in 2010 nationally, 61 percent of the 10,647 passenger vehicle occupants who were killed in motor vehicle traffic crashes overnight were **NOT** wearing their seat belts at the time of the fatal crash, compared to 42 percent during the daytime hours. Seat belt use saves thousands of lives across America each year and the Milpitas Police Department is helping spread the word. NHTSA statistics show that in 2010 alone, seat belts saved an estimated 12,546 lives nationwide.

Younger motorists and men are particularly at risk. Data shows that among teen and young adult passenger vehicle occupants in 2010, ages 18-34, which were killed in motor vehicle traffic crashes, 62 percent were not buckled up at the time of the crash – the highest percentage of any age group. The number jumps to 66 percent when just men in this age group are included. "As these statistics demonstrate, every time you get in a car, you're faced with a life-and-death decision," stated Chief Dennis Graham. "We ask you to choose life, and buckle up. It only takes a second to tremendously increase your odds of surviving an accident."

While this year's *Click It or Ticket* enforcement mobilization runs from May 21, 2012 through June 3, 2012; motorists should know that officers are out enforcing seat belt laws year-round.

By: Sergeant Raj Maharaj
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