



ORANGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

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NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Buckle up: 'Click It or Ticket' launches today

SANTA ANA, Ca. (May 22, 2017) –As summer approaches and families hit the road for vacations, The Orange County Sheriff's Department and the California Office of Traffic Safety are reminding motorists to buckle up.

The national seat belt campaign, "Click It or Ticket," launches today, May 22, and will run through June 4. The program, scheduled concurrently with one of the busiest travel and holiday weekends of the year, is aimed at enforcing seat belt use to help keep families safe.

OCSD deputies will conduct three evening seat belt enforcement operations throughout Orange County during the two-week "Click It or Ticket" mobilization to help lower California's traffic deaths. In addition to these special patrols, deputies on routine patrol will also be looking for unrestrained drivers and passengers to stop and cite.

"Our deputies see first-hand the loss of life and impact on families when people refuse to buckle up," said OCSD Traffic Sgt. Brian Sims. "It's such a simple thing, and it should be an automatic next step after getting in a vehicle. We want to make sure people are doing the one thing that can save them in a crash: buckling up."

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), nearly half of the 22,441 passenger vehicle occupants killed in crashes in 2015 were unrestrained. During nighttime hours, that number soared to 57 percent of those killed. That's why one focus of the "Click It or Ticket" campaign is nighttime enforcement.

Participating law enforcement agencies will be taking a no-excuses approach to seat belt law enforcement, writing citations day and night. In Orange County, the ticket cost for an adult seat belt violation is \$162, with penalties for not restraining a child at \$465.

In 2015, 545 Californians were killed because they did not wear a seat belt, according to NHTSA. Nationally, men have lower seat belt use rates, which contributes to almost twice as many men killed in crashes compared to women. Of the men killed in crashes in 2015, more than half (52 percent) were unrestrained. Forty-two percent of women killed in crashes were not buckled up.

"We are imploring the community to help us spread this life-saving message before one more friend or family member is killed as a result of this senseless inaction," Sims said. "Seat belts save lives, and everyone needs to remember to buckle up, every trip, every time."



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Funding for these operations is provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

For more information on the Click It or Ticket mobilization, please visit www.nhtsa.gov/ciot.

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