



Oakland Police Department
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Oakland Police Department ENFORCING SEAT BELTS IN 2009

Click It or Ticket Campaign Aims For Safe Year

Oakland, Calif. – The Oakland Police Department, in an effort to help bring everyone home safe for 2009, will be aggressively enforcing the state’s seat belt and child safety seat laws during a *Click It or Ticket* mobilization, taking place May 18-31. To promote **sustained** enforcement, Next Generation mini-grantees will conduct one to four days or nights of intensified seatbelt enforcement each month outside the mobilization periods through September of 2009. The campaign relies on heavy enforcement and public education as a means to help reduce deaths and injuries on California’s roadways. California currently has a seat belt use rate at 95.7 percent.

“The *Click It or Ticket* campaign has shown that Californians have gotten the message that seat belts work,” said Traffic Section Commander Lt. Anthony Banks. “But hundreds still are dying every year because they didn’t buckle up. Our officers will not accept excuses or give warnings. It really is *Click It or Ticket*.”

California has a primary seat belt law which requires that every passenger in the car, including the driver, is required to wear a seat belt at all times. If stopped and found to be in violation, law enforcement will issue citations without warning. Tickets for first seat belt violations range from \$80 to \$91 for adults and \$330 to \$401 for children under age 16, depending on the county.

“While we are very happy with actually surpassing 95 percent usage, that still means that more than a million people are in real danger in the event of a crash,” said Christopher J. Murphy, Director of the Office of Traffic Safety (OTS). “It takes just two seconds to reduce your chances of dying in a crash by half.”

Teens and nighttime car occupants lag behind others as far as buckling up is concerned. Officers will be concentrating even more on ensuring they are properly restrained. More than 280 law enforcement agencies statewide will be participating in this year’s *Click It or Ticket* mobilization.

Funding for officer overtime to support California’s *Click It or Ticket* campaign was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

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