

See press release below



**Connecticut's *Click It or Ticket* Mobilization
May 21 – June 3, 2012**

Seat Belt Use in Connecticut

- Approximately 88% of drivers in Connecticut use seat belts.
- On any given day, approximately 300,000 drivers in CT are not using their safety belts.
- Four out of every 10 occupants involved in a fatal car crash in Connecticut did not use their seat belts. At night, this number increases to six of every 10 occupants involved in a fatal crash not using their safety belts.
- For every percentage point increase in seat belt use in Connecticut, an additional 27,000 people would buckle up.

Cost of Motor Vehicle Deaths Nationally (Center for Disease Control and National Highway Traffic Safety Administration)

- Motor vehicle deaths are one of the leading killers of children, teens and young adults (ages 5-34) and among the top ten causes of death for all ages.
- Crash-related death costs Connecticut citizens \$263 million per year in lost work and medical expenses.

Click It or Ticket 2012

- 'Click it or Ticket' has helped increase the observed national belt usage rate which rose to an all-time high of 88 percent in 2011, up from just 58 percent in 1994.
- Thousands of state and local law enforcement and highway safety officials across the nation will participate in the national *Click It or Ticket* enforcement mobilization from May 21 to June 3.
- Because nighttime drivers tend to have lower seat belt use rates and as a result more likely to be injured or killed in a crash, the 2012 mobilization will include round-the-clock enforcement.

*The cost components include productivity losses, medical costs, rehabilitation costs, legal and court costs, emergency services (such as medical, police, and fire services), insurance administration costs, and the costs to employers.

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NEW BRITAIN POLICE DEPARTMENT

NEWS RELEASE

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New Britain Police Department Announces Effort to Increase Seat Belt Use

*State and Local Police Participate in National ‘Click It or Ticket’
Mobilization from May 17 through June 3, 2012*

New Britain -- New Britain law enforcement officials today kicked off an aggressive effort to save lives and reduce injuries by increasing seat belt use, ticketing unbuckled motorists as part of the national ‘Click It or Ticket’ campaign being conducted from May 17^h to June 3rd. The New Britain police Department in collaboration with the State Department of Transportation officials and Connecticut State Police were also assisted by members of the Hospital of Central Connecticut to kick off the campaign today at a roadside safety belt checkpoint, located in front of the Departments Headquarters on Columbus Avenue. Similar scenes will be replicated across the State in the coming days as scores of law enforcement agencies conduct around the clock saturation patrols and checkpoints looking for unbuckled motorists.

This is a year-round priority for state and local police, and “Click It or Ticket” helps law enforcement agencies shine a spotlight on the law and the importance of buckling up.”

According to the Fatal Accident Records System, during 2011 in Connecticut, 44% of motor vehicle occupant fatalities were **NOT** belted. An estimated 12,000 people a year in CT sustain moderate to severe injuries as occupants in car crashes.

According to the most recent observational survey, Connecticut’s seat belt use rate is 88.4 percent. Fatal Accident Reporting Systems (FARS) data suggests that young people from 16 to 24 years old are most at risk because of their failure to buckle up. For every percentage point increase in seat belt use in Connecticut, an additional 27,000 people across the State would be buckling up.

Nighttime enforcement will be an important component of the ‘Click It or Ticket’ campaign. Nighttime passenger vehicle occupants are the least likely to buckle up and the most likely to die in crashes. Nearly two-thirds of those who died in nighttime crashes in Connecticut were not wearing a seat belt.

High-visibility enforcement such as the “Click It or Ticket” mobilization is credited with increasing national seat belt usage from 58 percent in 1994 to 88.4 percent today.