



**NEWS RELEASE** 

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Click It or Ticket begins May 1

GRAFTON, N.D. – In an effort to save lives and reduce traffic injuries, law enforcement agencies across North Dakota will increase patrols from May 1 through June 2 as part of the *Click It or Ticket* campaign, focusing on enforcing North Dakota's seat belt law.

Seat belts are the single most effective safety device to prevent death and injury in a traffic crash. Unbelted fatal crashes in North Dakota occur most often on rural roads and during weekend (Friday and Saturday) nights according to the state's most recent data. Many of these fatalities involve males, who made up 79% of the unbelted traffic deaths over the past five years (2019-2023).

North Dakota's seat belt law is now a primary enforcement law meaning drivers can be stopped and cited solely for not wearing a seat belt. The law mandates that all occupants, regardless of seating position, must be buckled up or in the appropriate child restraint.

"When a crash happens, it's too late to decide to buckle up. The decision has to come first," said Walsh County Sheriff Ron Jurgens.

Seat belts are proven to significantly reduce the risk of serious injury or death in a crash. Data shows that belted occupants are more likely to escape crashes with minor or no injuries, while those unbelted face a much higher risk.

This campaign is part of the <u>Vision Zero</u> strategy to eliminate fatalities and serious injuries on North Dakota roadways.

Visit the <u>North Dakota Crash Memorial Wall</u> to view memorials built on the hope of preventing another death on North Dakota roads.

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