



**NEWS RELEASE** 

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Everyone Buckled for Click It or Ticket starting May 1**

GRAND FORKS, N.D. – Preliminary data shows nearly half (48%) of crash fatalities in North Dakota in 2023 were unbelted. To save lives, law enforcement across the state will have extra patrols from May 1 – June 2 for the *Click It or Ticket* campaign enforcing the state seat belt law.

North Dakota's seat belt law became a primary enforcement in August of 2023, meaning no other violation is required for a driver to be pulled over by law enforcement to issue a seat belt citation. The law also requires all occupants to wear a seat belt, regardless of where they are sitting in the vehicle.

Seat belts are the single most effective safety device to prevent death and injury in a motor vehicle crash. Crash data shows a direct correlation between seat belt use and injury severity. Unbelted vehicle occupants in crashes in North Dakota account for the largest percentage of fatalities, while belted occupants most commonly receive non-serious or no injuries.

"Seat belts aren't just about avoiding fines; they're about saving lives. Click it every time because every trip deserves a safe arrival," said Walsh County Sheriff Ronald Jurgens.

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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"During *Click It or Ticket*, remember buckling up is your best defense. It's not just a law, it's a lifesaving habit," said LEO Region #1.

"Seat belts save lives, period. Protect yourself and buckle up every time you're on the road. You'll avoid the ticket and the tragedy," said LEO Region #2.

"Click It or Ticket is a good reminder that the click of a seat belt could mean the difference between a routine trip and a life-changing crash," said LEO Region #3.

"Click It or Ticket reminds us that seat belts aren't optional extras – they're essential tools for protecting yourself, your loved ones and others on the road," said LEO Region #4.

"In the battle for road safety, seat belts are your frontline defense. Embrace the *Click It or Ticket* message – it's your best insurance if you are in a crash," said LEO Region #6.

"Click It or Ticket is a good reminder: seat belts are non-negotiable when it comes to road safety. Click it proactively because your life matters," said LEO Region #7.

"During *Click It or Ticket*, let's not forget the real reason for buckling up: it's a proven method for preventing fatalities and serious injuries on our roads," said LEO Region #8.