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Click It or Ticket Enforcement Period Begins May 20

Dickinson, N.D.- The North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT) and the North Dakota Highway Patrol want to remind drivers ahead of the Memorial Day holiday there are a million excuses to not buckle up, but not one of them will save your life.

Law enforcement across the state will have extra patrols from May 20 to June 2 for the *Click It or Ticket* campaign enforcing the state seat belt law. Some agencies are also participating in "Border to Border," a high visibility campaign on May 20. "Border to Border" aims to increase both public awareness and law enforcement participation by coordinating a synchronized operation, educating motorists about the importance of buckling up.

Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of injury-related death in North Dakota. Lack of seat belt use is the number one contributing factor in these vehicle deaths. In 2018, of the fatalities that were seat belt eligible in North Dakota, 48% were not wearing their seat belt. That means one unbelted occupant died every ten days on North Dakota roads.

The best way any driver or passenger can protect themselves and their loved ones is always wearing a seat belt, no matter where they are going. Driving is a privilege but buckling up is a choice that impacts those you love. Always buckle up, every trip, every time.

"Seat belts spread the force of impact over a large area and the strongest part of the body," says Killdeer Police Chief Eric Braathen. "Plain and simple they can save your life and save your loved ones a lifetime of grief from losing you in a vehicle crash."

This campaign is part of the Vision Zero strategy to eliminate motor vehicle crash fatalities and serious injuries on North Dakota roads.

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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