



South Elgin Police Department

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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
SOUTH ELGIN, ILLINOIS



Tough Enforcement on Seatbelt Violators this Thanksgiving Law Enforcement Launches *Click It or Ticket* Mobilization

This Thanksgiving the South Elgin Police Department is teaming up with the U.S. Department of Transportation National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and law enforcement agencies across the country on a high-visibility *Click It or Ticket* mobilization to make sure all Thanksgiving travelers are wearing their seatbelts.

Thanksgiving is one of the busiest travel times of the year, when millions of Americans hit the road to spend time with friends and family. But more vehicles on the road mean potential for more crashes and more fatalities. The *Click It or Ticket* campaign is designed to save lives by making sure all South Elgin drivers and passengers get the message to wear their seatbelts. The campaign combines powerful messages about seat belt safety with increased patrolling for all unbuckled motorists.

“Tragically, almost half of the people who died in a fatal traffic crash last Thanksgiving were not wearing a seat belt at the time of the crash,” said Officer Victor Wiacek. “This year, we will be making sure that all Thanksgiving travelers we see are wearing seatbelts and that all violators will be pulled over.” In Illinois the law requires all occupants to wear seatbelts, including the driver and front and all back seat passengers.

During the 2014 Thanksgiving holiday period (6 p.m. on Wednesday, November 26, to 5:59 a.m. on Monday, December 1), there were 341 passenger vehicle occupants killed in motor vehicle traffic crashes nationwide, and fifty percent of those killed were **NOT** wearing seat belts. Some of these tragic deaths may have been prevented by seatbelt use. NHTSA research indicates that proper seat belt use reduces the risk of fatal injury to front seat passengers by 45 percent, and the risk of moderate to serious injury by 50 percent. In 2014, seat belts saved the lives of 12,802 passenger vehicle occupants. If seatbelt use had been at 100 percent, an additional 2,814 people would still be alive this Thanksgiving.

“We see the devastation first-hand when people fail to buckle up in a crash, so whether you’re driving down the street, across town, or hundreds of miles away, you must wear your seatbelt,” said Officer Wiacek. “This Thanksgiving and every day of the year, remember: *Click It or Ticket.*”

For more information about traveling safely during Thanksgiving, please visit www.nhtsa.gov.