



## NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **9,300 UNBELTED MOTORISTS TICKETED DURING MINNESOTA SEAT BELT ENFORCEMENT**

ST. PAUL — A two-week “Click It or Ticket” statewide enforcement campaign generated 9,324 seat belt citations. Last year in Minnesota, 373 vehicle occupants were killed in crashes and over half — 194 — were not buckled up. The Department of Public Safety (DPS) estimates half of those killed could have survived had they been wearing seat belts. A seat belt fine is \$25 and can ramp up to \$115 with court costs and administrative fees.

Preliminary reports have been filed by 327 enforcement agencies. The final ticket tally will increase as more agencies submit reports. The *Safe & Sober* effort included participation from more than 440 law enforcement agencies.

“A seat belt citation is the most effective tool to change motorist behavior,” says Katherine Burke Moore, deputy director of the state’s Office of Traffic Safety. “While a majority of Minnesotans do buckle up, unbelted motorists account for about 40 percent of all traffic deaths.”

The Minnesota State Patrol issued 1,023 seat belt citations. Among local agencies, St. Paul Police Department issued 427 citations — followed by the police departments of Roseville (325), Edina (242), Minneapolis (193), and Ramsey County Sheriff’s Office (181). In greater Minnesota, St. Cloud Police Department wrote 214 citations, followed by the police departments of Rochester (143), St. Peter (93), Faribault (116), Lakes Area (100), and the Rock County Sheriff’s Office (87).

Minnesota’s seat belt use rate is 83 percent. Belt use among young motorists — those overrepresented in crashes — is 74 percent. Pick-up truck drivers have the lowest belt use among all vehicle types at 76 percent compliance. Minnesota’s 2007 seat belt use observational survey will be conducted in August.

Ongoing enforcement focusing on speeding and impaired driver behavior is planned throughout the state this summer — the deadliest period on Minnesota roads due to the combination of increased traffic driving at faster speeds and a spike in impaired driving.

*Safe & Sober* is an enforcement and education program funded by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and designed to reduce traffic deaths and serious injuries.

**Buckle Up. Click It or Ticket.**

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and Gambling  
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