

NEVADA TEEN BELTS ENFORCEMENT PLANNER



FACT SHEET & TALKING POINTS

Nevada “Buckling Down” on Those Not “Buckling Up” – Especially Teens

- In an effort to save more lives on Nevada’s roadways, State and local law enforcement will be out in force this May with a special “Click It or Ticket” seat belt enforcement mobilization to buckle down on *all* motorists not buckling up – but especially teens.
- Thousands of people die each year in motor vehicle crashes, and many of those killed are not wearing a seat belt at the time of the fatal crash. Studies have shown that half of those killed would still be with us if they’d just buckled up.
- Why do seat belts save lives? It’s simple—they prevent you from being ejected from the vehicle. People ejected from a car during a crash are four times more likely to die.
- Nationally in 2006, 72 percent of the passenger vehicle occupants involved in fatal crashes who were wearing their seat belt survived the crash.
- Although teens represent 6% of Nevada’s licensed drivers, they accounted for more than 12% of Nevada fatal crashes in 2006.
- Nevada teens still need a tough reminder that regular seat belt use is the single most effective way to protect people and reduce fatalities in motor vehicle crashes, so officers are stepping up enforcement efforts throughout the month of May. Spring weather brings out more cars on the road, and teens need this safety reminder before prom, graduation, and summer fun.

Young Drivers Are Among Those **LEAST** Likely to Buckle up

- One of the biggest reasons for the high rate of teen driver and passenger fatalities is low seat belt use. In Nevada, 37 teen drivers and passengers, ages 16 to 20 were killed during 2007 in motor vehicle crashes, and more than 70 percent (25 teens) were not wearing their seat belts at the time of the fatal crash.

-more-

- Nationally in 2005, over 6,000 teens ages 16 to 20 were killed in motor vehicle crashes, and almost 60% were unbelted at the time of the crash—losing 6,000 people is equal to 12 fully-loaded jumbo jets crashing in one day.
- Motor vehicle crashes—not drugs, guns, or alcohol—are the leading killer of our nation’s teenagers.
- According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), teenage drivers and passengers are those least likely to wear their seat belts; males age 18-34 are the second highest risk group.
- While all teens are at a high-risk of experiencing a fatal crash, in Nevada young males, pickup truck drivers and passengers, impaired drivers, and night-time drivers are also among those least likely to buckle up.

No More Excuses – “Click It or Ticket”

- Throughout May, State and local law enforcement will be stepping-up traffic patrols and enforcement zones targeting all seat belt violators – especially teens– who are not buckling up.
- Any motorist pulled over for violating standard traffic laws will receive an additional citation if they aren’t buckled up.
- Nevada’s goal is simple: to save more lives this year by convincing all drivers and passengers to buckle up.
- So unless you want to risk a second ticket, or worse, your life, please remember “Click It or Ticket” – day and night.
- For more information, visit www.nhtsa.gov/link/ciot.htm.

###