



Pasco Sheriff's Office

Public Information Office
8700 Citizen Drive
New Port Richey, Florida 34654
Phone (727) 844-7759
Fax: (727) 844-7738

For More Information, Contact:

Kevin Doll
Public Information Director
kdoll@pascosheriff.org

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Pasco deputies participate in Click It or Ticket campaign

NEW PORT RICHEY -- Pasco Sheriff's deputies will be participating in the annual Click It or Ticket campaign aimed at increasing the use of seatbelts in our community. The enforcement wave will be from Monday, May 18 until Sunday, May 31.

This will be the last enforcement of the current law whereby deputies will have to stop motorists for a primary infraction first before citing drivers and/or passengers for not wearing a seat belt or being buckled into a safety seat. The new law that allows law enforcement officers to stop motorists for not wearing a seat belt doesn't go into effect until June 30. Fines for failing to buckle up include \$99 for drivers and passengers and \$149 for failing to restrain children in child seats.

More Floridians buckled up last year, a simple act that saves scores of lives. Safety belt use in the state climbed slightly to 81.7 percent, pulling almost even with the national average of 82 percent.

But the minority of Floridians who do not wear a seat belt continue to make up a majority of the roadway body count. In 2007 – the most recent year for which crash statistics are available – the 1 in 5 Floridians who did not buckle up accounted for 3 in 5 traffic fatalities. That's why Florida's 9th annual Click It or Ticket public education campaign will focus on the motorists who are least likely to wear a safety belt. Last year, only 74.6 percent of pickup truck occupants wore a safety belt. In all race and age categories, safety belt use is far lower among men (78.1 percent) than women (86.6 percent). In Pasco County during 2007, 26 of the traffic fatalities were not wearing seat belts.