

From the Minnesota Network of Employers for Traffic Safety



Extra seat belt enforcement on Minnesota roads, May 24 – June 6



As we head into summer, the deadliest time on our roads, law enforcement agencies around the state are gearing up for a *Click It or Ticket* seat belt enforcement campaign which will run from May 24 – June 6. Use the proven influence of the workplace to support this effort and the safety of your workers.

Did you know?

- Buckling up every time is one of the easiest and most effective ways to keep your employees on the job and working to their full potential.
- 40 percent of lost work hours are the result of traffic-related injuries
- Motor vehicle crashes cost employers \$60 billion annually in:
 - lost productivity
 - absenteeism
 - insurance costs
 - workers' compensation
 - property damage

What can you do?

Many companies don't think they have a problem with employee motor vehicle safety. The only way to find out is to take a good, hard look and determine how frequently your employees are experiencing crashes. Select a designated period of time and find out the number and types of absences your

company has experienced. Look for trends that may help you determine the best times of year to promote seat belt use. Whatever the size of your company, you can take steps to promote seat belt use. A few possibilities:

- Develop and implement policies that support seat belt use.
- Conduct a seat belt check day. Check drivers and passengers as vehicles enter and leave the parking lot. Reward seat belt users with a simple prize on the spot.
- Establish a "Saved by the Belt" program, recognizing employees who were involved in crashes and were using restraints. Publicize their stories internally and through an awards program.
- Support the efforts of local law enforcement: send a letter of support during the enforcement campaign; put a "Buckle Up" message on business marquee or reader boards; reinforce the campaign with internal e-mail messages.
- Print and post the employee handout on the following page.
- Find more details and strategies on the [Minnesota NETS Web site](#) or contact Minnesota NETS Coordinator Lisa Kons at 651-228-7330/800-444-9150; lisa.kons@minnesotasafetycouncil.org.

What does the law say?

Effective June 9, 2009 the seat belt law requires everybody of all ages in every seating position in the vehicle to be buckled up or riding in an approved child passenger safety restraint. Also, law enforcement officers are now able to stop motorists solely for seat belt violations – including unbelted passengers.



Making Minnesota A Safer Place To Live
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Don't get stuck with a seat belt ticket.



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Distracted drivers. Speeders. Impaired drivers. You've seen them on our roads – and a seat belt is your best defense! Why?

- It holds you in the protective space built into your vehicle and gives you room to live if there's a crash.
- It helps you maintain control by keeping you correctly positioned behind the wheel.

Remember: Buckle up for every ride and require your passengers to do the same.



June 9 marks one year since Minnesota's primary seat belt law became effective. This law allows law enforcement to stop and ticket motorists solely for seat belt violations. Drivers and all passengers must be buckled up or in the correct child restraint. A seat belt fine can be more than \$100.

Minnesota's child passenger safety law requires children to ride in a booster seat once they've outgrown their car seat (usually around age 4) until age eight. Children should remain in a booster until they are 4 feet 9 inches tall.



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