



HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE  
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## NEWS RELEASE

**FOR RELEASE:** November 22, 2002

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### **Howard County Police Work to Increase Seat Belt Use** *Police Departments Across the Country Join Forces*

The Howard County Department of Police is preparing to participate in the National Operation ABC Mobilization: America Buckle up Children. *Click It or Ticket* is part of a nationwide effort that focuses on the enforcement of adult seat belt use, child safety seat use and drunk driving laws. The initiative begins on November 24 and continues through the Thanksgiving weekend – one of the most dangerous holidays for motorists.

More Americans are likely to drive for the Thanksgiving holiday rather than fly – which means much greater risks to families and ultimately more traffic fatalities. Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for children ages 4-14.

The Howard County Department of Police will use saturation patrols and stepped up enforcement. Drivers who fail to buckle up themselves or their child passengers will be ticketed. Anyone driving above the legal blood alcohol limit will be arrested. Offenders could face heavy fines, lose their license or go to jail, depending on previous offenses.

*Click It or Ticket* is proven to save lives. Research shows this initiative raises adult seat belt use and child restraint use. Mothers Against Drunk Driving has joined the Operation ABC Mobilization for the third year in a row. The Mobilization is a partnership of law enforcement, the Air Bag & Seat Belt Safety Campaign of the National Safety Council, state highway safety offices, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the National Transportation Safety Board. The Mobilization is also a part of Buckle Up America, an ongoing national initiative to increase seat belt use and save lives.

The Howard County Police Department asks everyone to always buckle up and make seat belt use a habit for life.

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