



NEWS RELEASE

HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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Howard County Police participate in nationwide “Click It or Ticket” seat belt campaign

Howard County Police are participating once again in the nationwide “Click It or Ticket” campaign aimed at increasing seat belt and child safety seat use. The focused seat belt enforcement begins this week and continues through June 6.

Over the last five years in Howard County, more than a third of people who died in crashes were not wearing seat belts. Just this month, a 31-year-old passenger died from injuries she sustained after being ejected in an Ellicott City collision. She was not wearing a seat belt. Officers continue to see the tragic consequences that can result from an unrestrained occupant being ejected from a vehicle.

“We’ve seen tragic deaths and severe injuries far too often that result from not wearing a seat belt,” said Police Chief Gary L. Gardner. “Don’t take the risk. Everyone should buckle up in every seat, on every ride.”

Every year, more than 120 unbelted drivers and passengers are killed in motor vehicle collisions in Maryland, according to the Maryland Highway Safety Office. Seat belts are the best way to protect vehicle occupants in a crash, reducing the risk of death and injury by nearly 50 percent.

During this campaign and throughout the year, officers are looking for drivers and passengers who are not using safety belts, as well as children who are not properly buckled into child safety seats, and will issue citations when appropriate.

National research shows the most effective way to increase safety belt use is through highly visible enforcement, combined with public education. For each percentage point the usage rate increases, it is estimated that another 250 lives are saved, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

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

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