



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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GOVERNOR

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SECRETARY

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**NORTH CAROLINA LAUNCHES "CLICK IT OR TICKET"
MOBILIZATION TO BOOST SAFETY BELT USE**

RALEIGH — Nearly one in five Americans still fail to regularly wear their safety belt when driving or riding in a motor vehicle, according to a new report from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Unbelted drivers and passengers involved in car crashes accounted for 525 fatalities or 46 percent of the people who died on North Carolina roads in 2005.

The Governor's Highway Safety Program announced today they are joining with more than 12,000 state and local law enforcement officers May 22-June 4 for an aggressive "Click It or Ticket" mobilization. During this time, safety belt checkpoints and other stepped-up law enforcement activities will be conducted.

"Safety belts clearly save lives," said Darrell Jernigan, director of the Governor's Highway Safety Program. "Unfortunately too many people still need a tough reminder, so law enforcement will be out in force buckling down on those who are not buckled up."

Regular safety belt use is the single most effective way to protect people and reduce fatalities in motor vehicle crashes. When worn correctly, safety belts have proven to reduce the risk of fatal injury to front-seat passenger car occupants by 45 percent – and by 60 percent in pickup trucks, sport utility vehicles and mini-vans.

Projections show that if North Carolinians increased the current safety belt usage rate of 86.7 percent to 90 percent, 37 fatalities would be prevented. This increase in compliance would also prevent 600 serious injuries and result in \$113 million in economic savings.

Two media events will be held to kick off this statewide effort:

Monday, May 22

Lumberton Farmer's Market

Lumberton

11 a.m.

Safety belt checkpoint will immediately follow the event.

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LOCATION:
215 EAST LANE STREET
RALEIGH, NC

Tuesday, May 23
2006 State Agency Wellness Fair
Jim Graham Building, N.C. State Fairgrounds
Raleigh
10 a.m.
Safety belt checkpoint will immediately follow the event.

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For a complete schedule of “Click It or Ticket” events and activities, or for information regarding this or other North Carolina highway safety issues, call GHSP public information officer Beth Horner at 919-733-3083 or visit our Web site at: www.ncdot.org/secretary/ghsp.