

## 'Click It Or Ticket' Yields 9,444 Occupant Protection Charges

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 Contact: Don Nail, Assistant Director

Phone: (919) 733-3083  
 E-mail: dnail@dot.state.nc.us

RALEIGH - State and local law enforcement officers issued 9,444 safety belt and child passenger safety violations for the first week of the "Click It or Ticket" campaign. "Memorial Day weekend marks the beginning of summer and we want to remind everyone of the importance of buckling up," said Darrell Jernigan, Director of the Governor's Highway Safety Program. "Summer time is a time for vacations, trips to the beach and relaxation. The simple step of fastening your seat belt could save your life or the life of someone you know. Be sure that you also require all passengers to buckle up."

Statewide, a total of 8,698 safety belt and 746 child passenger safety violations were issued during 3,587 checkpoints and stepped-up patrols. A total of 39,469 traffic and criminal citations were issued during the period.

Mecklenburg County came in with the highest number of safety belt citations for the week with a total of 1,035. Robeson, Wake (tied 393), Buncombe (320) and Guilford (286) bring up the state's top 5. Sixty-seven counties had less than 100 safety belt citations issued for the week. "We had hoped more people would have gotten the message by now," said Jernigan "It is unfortunate that it takes a ticket to get people to obey the law. We are appreciative of the support of law enforcement officers across this state."

Besides cracking down on seatbelt and child safety seat violation, officers also wrote 1,115 driving while impaired, 9,890 speeding tickets and discovered a total of 796 drug charges, 65 stolen vehicles and 17 fugitives from justice. The campaign continues through June 10.

### 'CLICK IT OR TICKET' STATEWIDE TOTALS

|                   | DWI                               | Occupant Protection  |                                   | Traffic Violations |                          | Criminal Violations |                           | Totals                              | Other Offenses*           |                    |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
|                   | Driving While Impaired Violations | Seat Belt Violations | Child Passenger Safety Violations | Speeding           | Total Traffic Violations | Drug Violations     | Total Criminal Violations | Total Traffic & Criminal Violations | Stolen Vehicles Recovered | Fugitives Arrested |
| 3,587 (May 23-29) | 1,115                             | 8,698                | 746                               | 9,890              | 26,954                   | 796                 | 1,956                     | 39,469                              | 65                        | 17                 |

\*These columns are not counted into overall total of violations.  
 Data compiled by the North Carolina State Highway Patrol.

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For county-by-county citation data call Don Nail at 919-733-3083, or visit our web site at:  
[www.ncdot.org/secretary/ghsp](http://www.ncdot.org/secretary/ghsp).