



City of Missoula  
Police Department  
Press Release

---

**For immediate release**

Date: May 24, 2013  
Contact: Sgt. Greg Amundsen  
Phone: 552-6333  
E-Mail: [gamundsen@ci.missoula.mt.us](mailto:gamundsen@ci.missoula.mt.us)

**Click It or Ticket Campaign Working to Boost Seat Belt Use**

The Missoula Police Department is joining the 2013 national Click It or Ticket seat belt enforcement mobilization to encourage Montanans to buckle up. Additional patrols are on the road May 20 through June 2.

“Too many drivers and passengers on our roads are not wearing their seat belts, and it often ends in preventable injuries or tragedy,” said Sergeant Greg Amundsen of the Missoula Police Department. “Our goal is to save lives, so the Missoula Police Department will be putting an extra emphasis on enforcing Montana’s seat belt and child safety seat laws.”

Preliminary numbers show that 78 percent of people who died in crashes on Montana roads so far this year were not wearing seat belts — an increase of 32 percent from the same time period last year. Seat belt use saves thousands of lives across America each year, and the Missoula Police Department is helping spread the word.

While Montana’s Click It or Ticket enforcement mobilization is running through June 2, motorists should know that officers are out enforcing seat belt laws year-round. Montana has a primary law for children through age 6 and weighing less than 60 pounds, but motorists need to ensure that all children are properly buckled and sitting in the back seat until they are 13 years old. All adults should be buckled, too.

“We’d rather everyone choose to buckle up — not just to avoid the ticket, but to be safe and avoid serious injury or death,” said Sergeant Greg Amundsen. “Our officers are prepared to ticket anyone not buckled up...no warnings and no excuses — don’t risk it!”

For more information about the importance of child safety seats and seat belt use, please visit <http://buckleup.mt.gov/> and <http://plan2live.mt.gov> .

Extra patrols are funded by the Montana Department of Transportation through the Selective Traffic Enforcement Program, using funds from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

---

---

Ginny Merriam, Public Information/Communications Director, office 552-6007 cell 546-7692