

**2009 Click It or Ticket  
Buckle Up Every Trip – Every Time**

**For Use at Employee Meetings and Safety Briefings  
Key Talking Points**

Seat belts are **the most** effective safety feature available in vehicles today. However, nearly one in five Americans **and one out of four Louisiana residents** still fail to regularly wear their seat belts. It is estimated that in 2006 alone, seat belts saved an estimated 15,383 lives across the country. Thousands more could have been saved and countless injuries reduced if more people buckled up every trip, every time.

Louisiana ranks 41<sup>st</sup> in the United States for seat belt usage

- Only around 75% of drivers in Louisiana wear seat belts. The national average is 83%.
- Men ages 18 to 34 are among the groups least likely to wear their seatbelts.
- Teen drivers also have consistently low seat belt usage which in combination with driving inexperience and risk taking is often deadly.
- Seat belt use in the South actually declined from 83% in 2006 to 80% in 2007.

Seat Belts Save Lives

- Lap/shoulder safety belts reduce fatal injuries to front-seat passenger car occupants by 45%.
- Safety belts reduce moderate-to-critical injuries by 50%.
- Of the 554 drivers killed in motor vehicle crashes in 2007, 371 were not wearing their safety belts.
- Wearing a seat belt improves your chance of survival in a crash by 45%.

Seat Belt Usage Affects the Economy

- Average inpatient costs for traffic crash victims who did not use safety belts were 55% higher than for victims who were belted.
- Lost time injuries are significantly higher for non-belted crash victims.
- Motor vehicle crashes cost Louisiana approximately \$6 billion per year. That's nearly \$2,000 per licensed driver. Increasing seat belt usage is one of the easiest and quickest ways to reduce these costs.

It's the Law - A primary one

- In Louisiana, a vehicle can be stopped when front seat occupants are unbelted
- Fines include: 1<sup>st</sup> violation \$25.00, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$50.00, and third \$50.00 plus court costs.

***For more information on seat belt usage and road safety issues in your community contact Spencer Boatner (LTAP) at 225 767 9717, or at [spencer.boatner@LA.GOV](mailto:spencer.boatner@LA.GOV) or Jamie Ainsworth (Highway Safety Commission) at 225 925 6998, or : [Jaime.ainsworth@dps.la.gov](mailto:Jaime.ainsworth@dps.la.gov).***