



News Release

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Branson police to again participate in seatbelt enforcement

The Branson Police Department will again join with other law enforcement agencies across the state for an aggressive "Click It or Ticket" operation this Thursday, February 25. The program is designed to mobilize law enforcement agencies to crack down on Missouri's safety belt law violators and in the process, reduce highway fatalities.

According to Branson Assistant Police Chief Steve Dalton, when officers do a routine traffic stop on a motorist, if neither the driver nor passengers are wearing a seat belt, they will be ticketed in addition to any other violations.

According to Dalton, nearly one in four Missouri motorists fail to regularly wear their seat belts. Only 77 percent of Missourians buckle up regularly, seven percent less than the national average of 84 percent.

Failure to regularly wear a safety belt can be deadly based on statistics from the Missouri Highway Patrol. In 2008, 489 people killed in traffic crashes were not wearing their seat belts, or seven out of 10 Missourians killed in traffic crashes are unbuckled.

"Each day someone dies in a crash in Missouri because they weren't buckled up," said Dalton. "We'll be out there to remind people that seat belts can and do save lives every day."

For more information on Missouri seatbelt use and the "Click It or Ticket" campaign, visit www.saveMOlives.com.