



OCEANSIDE POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS RELEASE



Contact:

Sgt. Kelan Poorman, Administrative Services Unit

kporman@ci.oceanside.ca.us (760) 435-4867

For Immediate Release

June 25, 2009

THE OCEANSIDE POLICE DEPARTMENT CONTINUES THEIR SEATBELT ENFORCEMENT

That's the message that the Oceanside Police Department is telling drivers as part of the on-going directed enforcement program. Fines and fees have gone from under \$100 previously to \$132 this year for first time adult seat belt violations. For children under 16, the fine is now \$435 for the first time offense.

Currently California has a seat belt usage rate of 95.7 percent, but that still means over one half million people are not buckling up. Properly restrained drivers, passengers and children have a 50 percent better chance of surviving a crash than unbelted occupants. Those ejected from vehicles in crashes or roll-overs are up to 35 times more likely to die than restrained occupants.

Oceanside has just completed a two week directed enforcement program; the city had a 97 percent seat belt usage rate. The Oceanside Police Department will continue the strict enforcement of occupant protection laws throughout the year in an effort to increase the usage within the City of Oceanside.

Each and every month the department will be deploying officers onto the streets to specifically look for motorists not complying with the seat belt law. The message to remember is "BUCKLE UP" regardless of how short your trip or destination. Your safety is our business, and the motto to remember is "Click it or Ticket".....

"Buckling up just makes sense," said Christopher J. Murphy, Director of the California Office of Traffic Safety. "It takes only two seconds for an action that can make the difference whether you or your family gets home today."

Funding to support California's *Click It or Ticket* campaign was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

###