



# VILLAGE OF PLAINFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT



## PRESS RELEASE

Release Immediately

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### ***The Plainfield Police urge motorists to Click It or Ticket, no matter where you sit.***

Plainfield, IL – With the holidays upon us, the Plainfield Police Department warns that whether you are traveling across town or across the state, if you or anyone in your vehicle is unbelted, you run the risk of getting an unwelcomed gift from law enforcement. As of January 1, 2012, everyone, no matter the age or seating position, will be required to wear a safety belt.

Everyone driving on Illinois roadways this holiday season is urged to drive carefully, do not drive impaired and, most importantly, buckle up each and every trip, night or day. Remember, the best defense against an impaired driver or a distracted driver is a safety belt.

The Illinois Department of Transportation's Division of Traffic Safety (IDOT/DTS) is proud that Illinois has a 92.9 percent daytime safety belt usage rate. However, far too many drivers and passengers still do not buckle up. In Illinois, during the Thanksgiving holiday period in 2010, 15 vehicle occupants died in motor vehicle traffic crashes; nine of those deaths involved a drinking driver and over 700 were injured. To lose a loved one is a terrible thing to experience, but to lose one's life when it might have been saved by taking two seconds to buckle a safety belt is truly senseless.

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) statistics show that those least likely to buckle up are teens; young adults; males; motorists traveling on rural roads and individuals traveling in pickup trucks, especially during the late night hours. Data shows late-night hours are when the highest percentage of motorists die in alcohol-involved crashes and the lowest percentage of vehicle occupants are properly restrained.

If you fail to buckle up during this holiday period, you run the risk of getting a ticket, or worse, being injured or killed. The same applies when you have been drinking and choose to drive," The Plainfield Police want all drivers and passengers to *Click It or Ticket*, day and night—and to remember, "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over."

Regular safety belt use is the single most effective way to protect people and reduce fatalities in motor vehicle crashes, according to NHTSA. Research has shown that when lap and shoulder belts are used properly, the risk of fatal injury to front-seat passenger car occupants is reduced by 45 percent, and the risk of moderate to serious injury is reduced by 50 percent. Remember, the best defense against an impaired driver is a safety belt.



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For more information about the Click It or Ticket and the Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over campaigns please visit [www.buckleupillinois.org](http://www.buckleupillinois.org).

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cc: All Police Employees WESCOM Press Board