

2012 CLICK IT OR TICKET - NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 21, 2012 **CONTACT: Lieutenant Carrie West, 940-498-2017**

> The Corinth Police Department Joins Click It or Ticket To Crack Down on Seat Belt Use - Especially at Night

Corinth, Texas – The Corinth Police Department will join local and national law enforcement officers and highway safety advocates all across the country for the 2012 national Click It or Ticket seat belt enforcement mobilization, May 21-June 3, 2012.

During the mobilization, officers will be cracking down on motorists who fail to wear their seat belts. Texas currently ranks seventh in the nation for overall seat belt use, and 93.7 percent of Texas motorists use seat belts according to the Texas Transportation Institute. Experts at the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimate that the steady increase in seat belt usage in Texas over the past ten years has resulted in 2,843 fewer traffic fatalities, 48,000 fewer serious injuries, and a savings to the state of more than \$10 billion in associated costs. But, there's still work to do.

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) launched its 11th Annual Click It or Ticket (CIOT) safety campaign with a pickup—hanging from a crane—as a visual testimony to the lifesaving realities of using seat belts. It's also a reminder that the annual law enforcement crackdown is about to begin motorists who don't buckle up will be fined.

From May 21 through June 3, including Memorial Day weekend, law enforcement around the state will be working overtime ticketing motorists who are not buckled up. State law now requires that every person in a vehicle be secured by a seat belt whether riding in the front or back seat. Fines and court costs for failing to fasten seat belts can add up to \$250 or more. "Fines for not wearing a seatbelt are costly" said Lieutenant Carrie West.

Pickups account for one in four registered vehicles in Texas, and are twice as likely to roll in a crash. But, seat belt use among pickup drivers and passengers continues to lag. Ninety-one percent of pickup drivers buckle up compared to 95 percent of other drivers. And, only 80 percent of truck passengers use seat belts compared to 92 percent of passengers in other vehicles.

In 2011, nearly 3,000 people died in fatal collisions on Texas streets and highways, and almost half were not buckled up. Wearing a seat belt reduces the risk of fatal injury by 45 percent for car occupants and 60 percent for light-truck occupants.

Remember this May 21 to June 3: It's Click It or Ticket. Buckle up and encourage your loved ones to do the same. You'll save the cost of a ticket and may even save a life.

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