

May 20, 2013

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Drivers and passengers, by state law, are required to wear a seatbelt. The Texas Department of Transportation and law enforcement agencies across Texas are spreading that word during the 12th annual Click It or Ticket campaign to save lives. The campaign is May 20-June 2.

Texas law requires drivers and all passengers in a vehicle to be secured by a safety belt. Unbuckled adult passengers in the back seat can face fines and court costs of up to \$200. Children younger than eight years old must be in a child safety seat or booster seat unless they are taller than 4 feet 9 inches. Fines can be as high as \$250 plus court costs. If a child passenger younger than 8 years old is not buckled up or is buckled in wrong, the driver will be ticketed.

The Click It or Ticket campaign is designed to raise safety awareness and prevent fatalities. According to TxDOT, wearing a seatbelt reduces the risk of being injured in a serious crash by 45 percent. For those in pickups, seat belts reduce the risk of injury by 60 percent since pickups are twice as likely to roll over as passenger vehicles.

According to TxDOT, in 2012, there were 5,062 vehicle crashes in Texas in which unrestrained occupants sustained fatal or serious injuries. Those least likely to buckle up include teens, passengers in general, pickup occupants, and motorists in medium sized cities and rural areas. Only 82 percent of passengers in pickups use seat belts.

The Burleson Police Department worked one fatal crash between May 12, 2012, and May 16, 2013, but the drivers and passengers were buckled up.

For more information about the Click It or Ticket campaign, go to <http://www.texasclickitorticket.com/>.