



WASHINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sheriff Fred Newman

MEDIA RELEASE

For Release: May 13, 2013

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Washington County Virginia 2013 High-Visibility Enforcement Campaign Begins (May 18th 2013)

As motorists take to the roads this Memorial Day holiday, the Washington County Sheriff's Office is urging everyone to buckle up. Beginning May 18th 2013, law enforcement officials will be out in full force, taking part in the 2013 national *Click It or Ticket* seat belt enforcement mobilization and cracking down on motorists who are not belted.

"As we kick-off the busy summer driving season it's important that everyone buckles up every time they go out, both day and night – no excuses," said Sheriff Fred Newman. "Our deputies are prepared to ticket anyone who is not wearing their seat belt – *Click It or Ticket*."

According to the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), 52 percent of the 21,253 passenger vehicle occupants killed in 2011 were not wearing their seat belts at the time of the crash. As noted, deaths involving seat belt nonuse are more prevalent at night than during the daytime. According to NHTSA, 62 percent of the 10,135 passenger vehicle occupants killed in 2011 during the overnight hours of 6 p.m. to 5:59 a.m. was not wearing their seat belts at the time of the crash.

"Seat belts save thousands of lives every year, but far too many motorists are still not buckling up, especially at night when the risk of getting in a crash is even greater," said Sheriff. "We want everyone to have a safe summer, but it requires an important step on the part of motorists – clicking that seat belt."

In 2011, seat belts saved an estimated 11,949 lives nationwide according to NHTSA. While this year's *Click It or Ticket* enforcement mobilization runs from May 20 through June 2, officers are out enforcing seat belt laws year-round.

This is why the Washington County Sheriff's Office is partnering with law enforcement across Virginia and the nation to increase seat belt use with the Click It or Ticket Enforcement Mobilization in an effort to save more lives on Virginia's Roadways. Aggressive and stepped up law enforcement activities will be conducted during this mobilization May 18 – May 31, 2013.

For more on the national *Click It or Ticket* mobilization, please visit www.nhtsa.gov.

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