



Mount Pleasant Police Department

501 N. Madison Avenue
Mount Pleasant TX 75455-3650
(903) 575-4004

*Texas Police Chief Association
Recognized Agency Since 2008*

Wayne Isbell, Police Chief

Press Release - Click It or Ticket (Seatbelt Enforcement)

Motorists who refuse to wear their seat belts – beware. The 2012 national *Click It or Ticket* seat belt enforcement mobilization kicks off May 20 to help save lives by cracking down on those who don't buckle up.

The 12th-annual campaign, which runs from May 20 through June 2, recognizes the legacy of President Lyndon Johnson for his commitment to traffic safety. This year marks the 45th anniversary of the year when automakers first were required by legislation to install seat belts in all vehicles.

“Since that day, the results have been staggering,” said TxDOT Director of Traffic Safety Section Terry Pence. “Between 1966 and 2000, motor vehicle death rate around the country fell by almost 72 percent.”

The Mount Pleasant Police Department is joining with other state and local law enforcement officers and highway safety advocates across the country to help save more lives by strongly enforcing seat belt laws around the clock.

According to the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), in 2010 nationally, 61 percent of the 10,647 passenger vehicle occupants who were killed in motor vehicle traffic crashes overnight (6 p.m. to 5:59 a.m.) were not wearing their seat belts at the time of the fatal crash, compared to 42 percent during the daytime hours.

Younger motorists and men are particularly at risk. NHTSA data shows that among teen and young adult passenger vehicle occupants in 2010, ages 18-34, who were killed in motor vehicle traffic crashes, 62 percent were not buckled up at the time of the crash – the highest percentage of any age group. The number jumps to 66 percent when just men in this age group are included.

“Too many drivers and passengers on the road are not wearing their seat belts, and it all too often ends in tragedy,” said Chief of Police Wayne Isbell. “Our goal is to save more lives, so the Mount Pleasant Police Department will be out enforcing seat belt laws around the clock.”

While this year's *Click It or Ticket* enforcement mobilization runs from May 20 through June 2, motorists should know that officers are out enforcing seat belt laws year-round.

“Those who choose not to wear a seat belt will feel the heat from our officers who will be out cracking down on *Click It or Ticket* violators. Motorists should buckle up every time they go out, both day and night,” said Chief Isbell. “Our officers are prepared to ticket anyone not buckled up...no warnings and no excuses. *Click It or Ticket.*”