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News Release

Click it or Ticket Law Enforcement Efforts Begin May 20th

SANTA FE – According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) nearly 27.5 million Americans still don't buckle up. That's nearly the entire population of Texas. The New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT) and its partners want to stress to all New Mexicans, seat belt safety is imperative. According to NHTSA in 2017, there were more than 10-thousand unbuckled passenger vehicle occupants killed in crashes in the U.S.

NMDOT Cabinet Secretary Michael Sandoval says, "Seat belts save lives, and everyone, front seat and back, children and adults, need to remember to buckle up every trip, every time." In New Mexico, from 2013-2017 there were 2,284 unbelted people hurt or killed in crashes.

Sandoval says, "By far, buckling up is the simplest thing you can do to limit injury or save a life during a crash. We've seen the consequences of not wearing a seat belt. We see the loss of life. So often, it could have been prevented with the simple click of a seat belt. There's no excuse good enough for not buckling up. It only takes a few seconds and it's not an option, it's the law."

As part of the national "Click it or Ticket" campaign, law enforcement throughout New Mexico will be stepping up enforcement and watching closely for seatbelt offenders. Last year, N.M. state law enforcement handed out more than 10-thousand seatbelt citations and nearly 14-hundred child restraint citations. During the "Click it or Ticket" enforcement time frame alone, nearly 14-hundred seatbelt citations and 75 child restraint citations were issued in 2018.

This year's "Click it or Ticket" campaign runs from May 20th to June 2nd. Be aware law enforcement throughout New Mexico will be taking a no-excuse approach to seat belt use.

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