

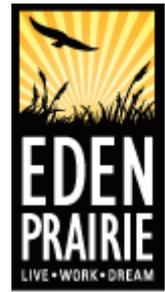
NEWS RELEASE

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EDEN PRAIRIE AND BLOOMINGTON POLICE OFFICERS CRACK DOWN ON SEAT BELT VIOLATIONS

130 Citations Issued During October “Click It or Ticket” Program

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. — Police officers from Eden Prairie and Bloomington issued 130 seat belt citations, including two child safety seat violations, during a recent “Click It or Ticket” campaign.

More than 400 agencies statewide participated in the “Click it or Ticket” enforcement from October 10–19. The program, aimed at increasing seat belt use and preventing fatal and serious injury crashes, also included an increased effort to combat unbelted traffic deaths at night. This resulted in 18 seat belt citations issued by Eden Prairie and Bloomington officers after dark.

“The goal of these enforcement campaigns is to change driver behavior and encourage seat belt use,” said Pete Vosbeek, sergeant for the Eden Prairie Police Department. “In many cases, a ticket is the best tool to gain positive results.”

The special nighttime patrols were conducted to combat a growing concern of unbelted traffic deaths during nighttime hours (9 p.m.–3 a.m.). In the last three years in Minnesota, 2005–2007, 62 percent fatal crash victims were not wearing seat belts.

Of 1,274 vehicle occupants killed in crashes from 2004–2006, more than half were not wearing seat belts. The Minnesota Department of Public Safety (DPS) estimates around half of those killed would have survived if they were buckled up.

The *Safe & Sober* effort is coordinated by the Department of Public Safety Office of Traffic Safety as a component of the state’s Toward Zero Death initiative (TZD). TZD is a multi-agency approach to address traffic issues regionally through enforcement, education, engineering and emergency trauma care and response.

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