



Sheriff
Dan Altena
Sioux County Sheriff's Office
4363 Ironwood Avenue
Orange City, IA 51041

Office (712) 737-2280 Fax (712) 737-8185

SIoux COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE JOINS IOWA LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES TO MAKE IOWA ROADWAYS SAFER

In a special effort to save more lives across the state, the Sioux County Sheriff's Office has joined forces to make Iowa roadways safer. As part of the Department of Public Safety, Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau and the Special Traffic Enforcement Program (sTEP) Iowa's enforcement project will be March 13-17, 2008. Over 320 law enforcement agencies will be asked to participate in this event to make our streets and highways safer.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), 53 percent of all passenger vehicle occupants killed in motor vehicle crashes in Iowa in 2007 were not wearing their safety belts at the time of the crash. Of the 444 fatalities in Iowa reported last year, 152 were identified as belted, 154 were not wearing seat belts, 33 were listed as unknown and 105 were identified as other.

That's why the Sioux County Sheriff's Office announced today that they are joining Iowa's Special Traffic Enforcement Program to launch several special Click It or Ticket enforcement mobilizations during the year to increase safety belt use in order to reduce fatalities.

Although Iowa's observed safety belt rate is now 91 percent, up from 75 percent in 1997. The bulk of the safety belt violators are young males, pickup truck drivers and their passengers, people who live in rural areas, and night-time drivers. Even though Iowa is ranked 10th in the nation for safety belt usage, there still are 180,000 drivers and an additional 70,000 front seat passengers who go unbelted everyday on Iowa roadways.

Safety belts clearly save lives. But unfortunately, too many Iowans still need a tough reminder, so officers will be out in force buckling down on those who are not buckled up. Unless you want to risk a ticket, or worse - your life, you need to always remember to Click It or Ticket! Day & Night!

During the November 19-25, 2007, sTEP wave, Iowa law enforcement logged 309 OWI contacts, 1,627 safety belt violations, 8,582 speed violations and 393 contacts with unlicensed drivers. A total of 18,597 traffic contacts were reported by 229 law enforcement agencies from 1,463 officers. Officers assisted 1,516 motorists, investigated 940 traffic accidents and served 206 arrest warrants. The next sTEP wave will be May 19-June 1, 2008.

