



BLOOMINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT



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'Click It or Ticket': Buckle up Memorial Day and every day

Bloomington, IL - The Bloomington Police Department is reminding drivers to buckle up as part of the national "Click It or Ticket" campaign. This high-visibility seat belt enforcement initiative runs from May 16 to May 27, coinciding with the Memorial Day holiday.

Illinois enacted its seat belt law 40 years ago on July 1, 1985, becoming the third state to require seat belt use for drivers and front-seat passengers aged eight and older. Children under eight were required to be secured in appropriate child safety seats. In July 2003, Illinois strengthened the law to allow officers to pull over and ticket drivers solely for failing to buckle up - a change that led to a significant increase in compliance.

Since the seat belt law's initial introduction and subsequent upgrade more than two decades ago, seat belt usage has surged from 15.9% in 1985 to 92.4% in 2024. This dramatic improvement underscores the law's effectiveness in promoting compliance and enhancing roadway safety.

While Illinois achieved a commendable 92.4% daytime seat belt usage rate in 2024, there's room for improvement. The remaining 7.6% need to be reminded that seat belts save lives. Participating law enforcement agencies will take a no-excuses approach to enforcement, issuing citations day and night.

A key focus of the "Click It or Ticket" campaign is nighttime enforcement, as Illinois crash data indicates higher rates of unrestrained fatalities at night. Notably, in 2023, 72% of male passenger vehicle occupants killed in crashes were unrestrained, compared to 28% of female passenger vehicle occupants.

The "Click It or Ticket" campaign is funded with federal highway safety funds administered by the Illinois Department of Transportation. For more information on safe driving practices, visit ItsNotaGamellinois.com.

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Media Contact:

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If you wish to submit a crime tip and remain anonymous, please contact the Crime & Intelligence Analysis Unit (CIAU) at 309-434-2963 or email CIAU@cityblm.org. You can also text the number 847411 by texting the word "BPDTIPS", then a space, followed by your tip information.

The tip line is not monitored 24/7. The CIAU office is staffed from 8am-4:30pm, weekdays. If no one is available to answer your call, please leave the information on the voicemail or send it by e-mail.

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