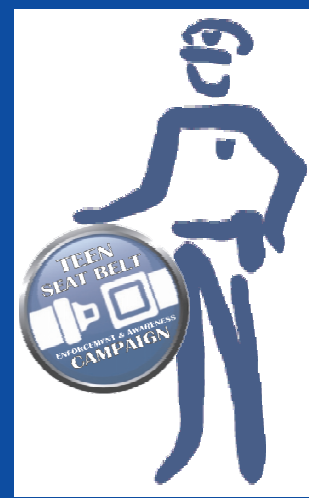




SQUAD ROOM NEWS



PROM & GRADUATION 2012:

TEENS AT RISK!

Teens often live for the moment. But the moment they choose to go for a ride without a seat belt could be their last! Help protect the future of teens in your community by dedicating yourself to stepped-up seat belt enforcement throughout this spring, when end of school year celebrations can create an increased risk of tragic consequence for unbelted teens.



We are asking law officers in Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas and the Indian Nations to step up enforcement of Click It or Ticket (CIOT) during prom and graduation at your jurisdiction's high schools, as well as during the May 21 to June 3 annual national mobilization. Take a stand against unnecessary teen deaths and injuries by instituting a zero-tolerance policy for teens (as well as other motorists) caught not wearing seat belts, making certain that unbuckled teen drivers and passengers are ticketed and fined. For more information visit: www.nhtsa.gov/Teen-Drivers

To download teen seat belt materials for prom and graduation go to: www.region6teenbeltproject.org

Next CLICK IT or TICKET MOBILIZATION: MAY 21 - JUNE 3, 2012

CRASHES: #1 KILLER OF TEENS

- A total of 3,932 teenagers ages 16 to 20 died in traffic related crashes in 2009.
- Teens have higher fatality and injury rates in traffic crashes than any other age group.
- The fatality rate for drivers ages 16 to 19, based on miles driven, is four times higher than for drivers ages 25 to 69.
- In spite of this, teen drivers and passengers – especially young men – are among those least likely to wear their seat belts.
- More than half of the teens killed in traffic crashes in 2009 were not buckled up.
- By enforcing seat belt laws, you can help call attention to the fact that buckling up is the absolute best way to protect teens and their passengers from severe injury or death in the event of a motor vehicle crash.
- No seat belt can mean no future!



ENFORCEMENT STRATEGIES

Create a strong law enforcement presence during nighttime prom and graduation related events that is highly visible to students. Increase daytime high-visibility enforcement around high schools and during high school sports events, as well as near teen hang-outs such as malls and movie theatres on weekends, to help increase teen seat belt use in your jurisdiction.

OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

Have officers speak at graduation rehearsals and student assemblies to raise teens' seat belt awareness before they head out to prom and graduation events.

Reward teen drivers “caught” wearing their seat belt. The rewards can be themed for prom or graduation, or they can be nonspecific items such as free music downloads or fast food coupons.