



WEST VIRGINIA GOVERNOR'S HIGHWAY SAFETY PROGRAM



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PSC & Governor's Highway Safety Program Remind Drivers to Buckle up

Seatbelts save lives. The Public Service Commission of West Virginia and the West Virginia Governor's Highway Safety Program (GHSP) have teamed up to remind drivers that wearing a seat belt is not just a good idea – it's the law.

As drivers take to the roads for shopping and family gatherings during the holiday season, law enforcement agencies across the State are working together to reinforce the importance of seat belt safety and to conduct seat belt check points. Through this joint effort, officers will be able to pull over even more private and commercial vehicles.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, seat belts saved 12,174 lives in 2012; yet so far this year, more than 10,000 drivers in West Virginia have been cited for seat belt violations.

West Virginia has had a primary enforcement seat belt law since 2013. In 2012, West Virginia had 339 roadway fatalities. During the first full year after passing the law, fatalities dropped 18% to 272. "Our goal is to reduce highway fatalities in West Virginia," said Bob Tipton, Director of the West Virginia GHSP. "We have been fortunate to reach our goal of having a primary enforcement law and to have so many law enforcement officers and agencies willing to step up and promote Click It or Ticket."

Bob Blankenship, Director of the PSC's Transportation Enforcement Division added, "Our agency is charged with improving safety on West Virginia's roadways for commercial vehicles. We all must remember to buckle up every time we get into a vehicle. The Click-It or Ticket campaign is good for West Virginia because it saves lives."

For more information, contact the West Virginia GHSP at DMVGHSP@wv.gov or 304-926-2509.

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