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Media Release

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For Immediate Release

Law Enforcement Out in Full Force to Focus on Seat Belts and Safety

North Dakota law enforcement officers will be out in full force the next few weeks as they focus on ticketing those who are not wearing a seat belt. The number of law enforcement agencies participating in this year's *Click It or Ticket* campaign has nearly doubled from last year. According to the North Dakota Department of Transportation, there are 42 agencies, including the North Dakota Highway Patrol, city police departments, and county sheriff's departments participating in the statewide effort.

A group of special concern this May is teen drivers. In 2008, there were 15 fatal crashes involving teen drivers in North Dakota. Seventeen people died in these crashes; only two of them were wearing seat belts. Of the fifteen others, twelve were not wearing a seat belt; one was unknown; and two were motorcycle fatalities. Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death among 15-20 year olds.

Safe Communities Coordinator (name here) states, "Nearly eight of every ten North Dakotans realize the importance of buckling up to drive safely. In our county, (insert data here). While we've made progress, it's not good enough. To help our citizens realize the importance of buckling up, we will be (insert activity here)."

In North Dakota, it is the law that everyone is to wear a seat belt. If a driver is under the age of 18, she can be pulled over for not wearing a seat belt. If the driver is 18 or over, he can be cited if pulled over for another reason. This campaign reinforces the importance of clicking it quick to buckle up and save lives.

In 2008, there were 104 fatalities on North Dakota roadways. Eighty-one fatalities occurred in a vehicle crash, from which 59 or 75 percent were confirmed as not wearing a seat belt. The remainder of fatalities include motorcycle, pedestrian and bicycle crashes.

(your name here) continues, "Two of the top reasons people give for not buckling up are that they don't have time, and they forget. We're here to remind you to click it quick! It takes less than three seconds to click it, and it will save you a ticket."

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