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PRESS RELEASE

Click It or Ticket:

The GJPD will buckle down on those not buckled up – especially teens

(Grand Junction, CO) – The Grand Junction Police Department is joining other local and state law enforcement agencies this week to step up seat belt enforcement and save lives. Special attention will be given to teenage drivers during *Click It or Ticket, October 15 – 21, 2007*.

“We are particularly concerned about teen drivers and passengers because they are among those least likely to always wear their seat belt,” said GJPD Traffic Unit Sergeant Doug Norcross.

According to the Colorado Department of Transportation, in Colorado during 2006, 71 passenger vehicle drivers and passengers between the ages 15 and 20 were killed in crashes, and 70 percent (50 people) were not wearing their seat belts at the time of the fatal crash.

Regular seat belt use is the single most effective way to protect people and reduce fatalities in motor vehicle crashes. “To help save more lives on Grand Junction’s streets, we’re going to make sure both teens and adults understand that wearing your seat belt costs you nothing, but not wearing it could cost you a ticket or worse – your life,” Norcross said.

It’s the law in Colorado for all drivers under 18 and their passengers to wear seat belts. It is also the law for all adult and front seat passengers to wear seat belts, and to make sure children are properly restrained in child safety seats.

Colorado law allows officers to pull over teenage drivers for not wearing a seatbelt. However adult drivers can only be cited for not wearing a seatbelt if they are stopped for another primary traffic violation.

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