February 23, 2011

News Release

*For Immediate Release*

**Occupant Protection Day February 25**

The Springfield Police Department (SPD) would like to remind everyone that Friday, February 25th, is "Occupant Protection Enforcement Day," which is a one-day version of the Click It or Ticket Campaign. The SPD asks officers to make a commitment to increase safety belt enforcement while conducting traffic stops during the upcoming enforcement day.

MoDot reports that one in four Missourians still fail to regularly wear their safety belts when driving or riding in a motor vehicle. Based on 2010 data, a driver in a Missouri traffic crash has a 1 in 32 chance of being killed if they are not wearing a seat belt. In 2010 only 77% of drivers wore a seat belt, 7% lower than the national average. That said, regular safety belt use is the single most effective way to protect people and reduce fatalities in motor vehicle crashes.

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