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The Central Falls Police Department joins *Click It or Ticket* To Crack Down on Seat Belt Use

The Central Falls Police Department will join state and local law enforcement officers and highway safety advocates across Rhode Island for a statewide *Click It or Ticket* seat belt enforcement mobilization, March 18, 2013 to March 24, 2013.

During the mobilization, officers will be ticketing motorists who fail to wear their seat belts – both day and night.

Seat belt use saves thousands of lives across America each year. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), in 2011 alone, seat belts saved an estimated 11,949 lives nationwide. In fatal crashes during 2011, 77% of passenger vehicle occupants who were thrown from their vehicles were killed. However, only 1% of crash victims who were buckled up were totally ejected from their vehicles, compared to 31% of those who were unbelted.

Click it or Ticket works. High-visibility enforcement is credited with increasing the national seat belt usage rate from 58% in 1994 to an estimated observed rate of 86 percent in 2012, which is an all-time rate according to NHTSA.

Seat belts provide the best defense against impaired, distracted and aggressive drivers. In fact, wearing your seat belt is the single most effective crash protection available. That's why the Central Falls Police Department is strongly supporting enhanced nighttime enforcement of seat belt laws during the March 18 to March 24, 2013, *Click It or Ticket* statewide campaign," said Colonel James Mendonca, police chief of Central Falls. "We will be out in force to remind drivers and occupants to always wear their seat belts – both day and night."

Remember to Buckle up and encourage your loved ones to do the same. You'll save the cost of a ticket and may even save a life.