



NEWS RELEASE

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“Sheriff’s Deputies target fatal traffic collisions during national *Click It or Ticket* seat belt enforcement campaign”

Westminster, Carroll County, Maryland, May 15, 2009 ---- According to “2008 Preliminary Traffic Fatality statistics,” Carroll County experienced 20 fatal traffic collisions last year. Despite Carroll’s safety belt use being higher than the national average, the Maryland Highway Safety Office reports that almost a fourth of Carroll’s fatalities could have been prevented were the occupants wearing a seatbelt.

In response, Carroll County Sheriff’s Deputies will join the Hampstead, Manchester, Sykesville, Taneytown, Westminster and Maryland State Police beginning **Monday May 18th** in citing unbelted vehicle occupants around the clock as part of the aggressive national *Click It or Ticket* seat belt enforcement campaign.

To reduce traffic collisions and increase seatbelt use, Sheriff’s patrol deputies will direct their traffic enforcement and education efforts toward unsafe roadways identified by citizen complaint and through Traffic Collision & Enforcement Analysis. The Sheriff’s Office has identified several of the counties “High Collision Routes,” which are:

- Route 97 between Route 140 and Old Hanover Road
- Route 97 between Route 140 and Bartholow Road
- Route 26 between Route 97 and Oakland Mills Road
- Route 26 @ Route 27
- Route 140 from Tyrone Road to Market Street
- Route 27 from Route 140 to Route 482
- Route 482
- Middleburg Road
- Uniontown Road
- Woodbine Road

In addition to directed traffic patrol activities aimed at those locations identified as “High Collision Routes,” the Carroll County Sheriff’s Office will join state and local law enforcement in an intensified effort along other local roadways. Excessive speed and abuse of alcohol and drugs, along with the failure to use a safety belt remain leading factors in collision related fatalities nationwide. For those that do not comply with Maryland traffic safety laws, including seatbelt and safety seat use, Sheriff’s Deputies will stop and issue them a traffic citation.