



# CITY OF CLEARWATER

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POLICE DEPARTMENT

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## **CLEARWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT PARTICIPATES IN *CLICK IT OR TICKET* ENFORCEMENT**

**Clearwater, Fla.** – The Clearwater Police Department is joining hundreds of other law enforcement agencies across Florida in renewing a pledge to save lives by intensifying seat belt enforcement efforts during the *Click It or Ticket* campaign, which began March 1<sup>st</sup> and runs through March 15, 2009.

According to 2008 data from the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, 2,983 individuals were killed in motor vehicle related crashes. Of these traffic deaths, 1,795 individuals were either drivers or passengers in safety belt equipped vehicles. Sixty percent (1,085) of these people killed were not wearing a safety belt. In addition in 2008, sixty-eight percent (54 of 79) of the children ages 0 to 17 years old killed in traffic crashes were not using safety equipment.

Research shows that lap/shoulder belts, when used properly, reduce the risk of fatal injury to front-seat passenger car occupants by 45 percent and the risk of moderate to critical injury by 50 percent. For light-truck occupants, safety belts reduce the risk of fatal injury by 60 percent and moderate-to-critical injury by 65 percent.

Safety belts are 80-percent effective in reducing fatalities in light trucks (including sport utility vehicles) during rollover crashes. They also help prevent individuals from being totally ejected during a crash, thus reducing the risk of a fatal injury.

