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Click It or Ticket 2013
Saving Lives and Increasing Seat Belt Use

The 2014 Click It or Ticket National Seat Belt Campaign begins May 19th and runs through June 1st. This annual campaign is intended to bring awareness to all drivers and passengers that seat belts save lives. In 2012, seat belts saved over 12,000 lives nationwide.

“Motorists are 75 percent less likely to be killed in a rollover crash if they are buckled up”, said Gwen Neundorfer, Traffic Safety Program Coordinator. “The worst possible scenario is to be thrown from your vehicle because you weren’t wearing your seat belt. Wearing your seat belt is the single most effective thing you can do to protect yourself in a crash”.

In 2013 in Lucas County, there were 32 fatal crashes with 33 fatalities. In the 17 fatal crashes where seat belts were available (excludes pedestrians and motorcyclists) 53 percent of those killed were not buckled up at the time of their crash.

Seat belt surveys were conducted by retired Highway Patrol Troopers in April and June in 2013 at six sites in Lucas County. The average of the two surveys for seat belt usage by drivers and passengers at these locations is as follows:

I 75 at Suder Avenue	86.4%
I 280 at Navarre Avenue	79.7%
Airport Hwy. at Bronx Dr.	70.9%
W. Central Ave. at N. McCord Rd.	84.6%
Birchwood Ave. at Schneider Rd.	86.9%
Spring Meadows Dr. at Airport Hwy.	88.4%

In all of Lucas County, seat belt use is at 81.5 percent.

Law enforcement agencies in Lucas County will be joining law enforcement officials, highway safety representatives and safety advocates nationwide who have vowed support of the annual mobilization. Cops aren’t cracking down for the fun of it. Wearing a seat belt is a serious issue. For the first time in five years, fatalities for unrestrained passenger vehicle occupants have gone up.

“Local motorists should be prepared for stepped up *Click It or Ticket* activities that will take place around the clock. If law enforcement finds you on the road unbuckled anytime or anywhere, you can expect to get a ticket — not a warning. No excuses and no exceptions,” said Det. Mark Woodruff, of the Lucas County Sheriff’s Office and Coordinator of the Lucas County OVI Task Force.

Please, remember to buckle up every time you get in your vehicle and encourage your loved ones to do the same. You’ll save the cost of a ticket and may even save a life.