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## "Click It or Ticket" Campaign Reminds Californians to Always Buckle Up

Seat Belt Safety Campaign Runs Through Memorial Day

**Menifee**, **CA** – The Menifee Police Department reminds travelers to always buckle up and secure children in the right car seats when visiting friends and family.

This year's *Click It or Ticket* campaign runs from May 12<sup>th</sup> to June 1<sup>st</sup>. During this time, the Menifee Police Department will have additional officers on patrol actively looking for drivers and passengers who are not wearing a seat belt. This includes vehicles where children are not secured in child safety seats or the right safety seats for their age.

"Wearing a seat belt should be automatic for all drivers and passengers every trip," Chief Chris Karrer said. "Seat belts save lives, and everyone — front seat and back, child and adult — needs to remember to always buckle up."

Nationally, <u>11,302 people killed in crashes in 2022</u>, were not wearing seat belts. In California, <u>842 people killed in crashes in 2022</u>, were not wearing seat belts, a decrease of 8.4 percent from 2021.

<u>California law</u> requires all children under two years old to ride in a rear-facing car seat, unless the child is 40 or more pounds or is 40 or more inches tall. Once a child reaches these milestones, all children under the age of eight years are still required to be secured in a car seat or booster seat. Children under the age of eight may not ride in the front seat unless the vehicle is not equipped with a rear, forward-facing seat. Children eight and older, or who are at least four feet nine inches tall, may be secured by a booster seat, but at a minimum must be wearing a properly fitted safety belt.

Parents and caregivers are encouraged to keep children in the proper rear or forward-facing seat as long as possible and use the "<u>Five-Step Test</u>" to determine if their child is big enough to safely use a seat belt without a booster seat.

Funding for this program was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

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