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Click It or Ticket: HPD Increases Traffic Enforcement

Harrisonburg, Va. – The Harrisonburg Police Department (HPD) will be stepping up traffic enforcement over the next two weeks in support of the Click It or Ticket campaign.

Starting this week HPD will have numerous saturation patrols including those focusing on seat belt use in school zones, frequent accident locations and problem areas identified by citizen complaints. The goal of this enforcement is to save lives by cracking down on traffic infractions and lack of seatbelt usage.

In 2017 HPD responded to 26 crashes with unrestrained occupants that lead to 16 injuries and one fatality. Seatbelt usage likely would have prevented the fatality and significantly reduced the number of injuries.

Based on a pre-campaign survey conducted by the HPD, Traffic Unit, Harrisonburg currently has a 97% seatbelt usage rate and HPD wants to increase that to 100%. During 2017 in the Commonwealth of Virginia, 52% of fatal crashes victims were not wearing a safety belt.

According to the non-profit organization Drive Smart Virginia, most fatal crashes occur at speeds less than 40 mph and within 25 miles from home. Being thrown from a vehicle increases your chance of being killed by 57% and death rates are eight times higher when occupants fail to use seatbelts.

For more information on seatbelt usage visit drivesmartva.org and follow us on Facebook @Harrisonburg Police Department.

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