

## Governor's Office of Highway Safety

NEWS RELEASE  
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### **Pickup The Habit: New Law Requires Buckling Up in Trucks SAFETY BELT LAW TO START JULY 4<sup>TH</sup> WEEKEND WITH A BANG**

**(Glynn County)** Georgia drivers should mark their calendars and include a reminder with their Fourth of July party invites...it's time to buckle up in pickup trucks. By then, the new state *pickup truck safety belt law* will be in effect in Georgia. The new law says if you're in a truck, buckle up. Although officers statewide will be participating in the regular May enforcement campaign of *Click It or Ticket* (CIOT) on Memorial Day weekend, they'll be looking ahead to the next holiday weekend, July 4<sup>th</sup>, when they'll be concentrating on writing tickets for all unbelted pickup truck drivers and passengers.

**Why now?** The facts are clear. In fatalities of passenger vehicle occupants within the rural areas of Georgia, nearly half involve light pickup trucks. Among these fatalities, 75-percent are unrestrained. Traffic crashes, injuries and fatalities cost Georgia more than \$7.8 billion and more than 1,500 crash deaths every year. Approximately 100 of these lives could be saved without spending a dime if pickup truck occupants simply buckled up at the same rate as those in passenger vehicles. The new pickup truck law will help increase safety belt usage and help save lives in Georgia.

**What about farmers?** Under the new provisions of the law, there is zero impact to any agricultural roadway user. The new pickup truck belt law was written so that it included an exemption for every conceivable agricultural use in the state.

**Does this law unfairly target rural communities?** In a word...no. Buckling up in your pickup truck is not an issue of urban-versus-rural or agriculture-versus-industry. It's simply an issue of saving lives of some of our most productive citizens.

The rural road crash death rate in Georgia is twice that of urban areas. This is due primarily to the fact that pickup truck occupants use their seatbelts nearly 15-percent less than their peers riding in passenger vehicles.

When worn correctly, seatbelts have proven to reduce the risk of fatal injury to front-seat light truck occupants by 60-percent and as much as 80-percent in the event of a rollover crash. Simply buckling your seatbelt can reduce medical and legal expenses, lost wages, lost productivity, high insurance rates and other burdensome costs that all citizens are forced to share because of rollovers and vehicle crashes. While these monetary costs are staggering, the biggest beneficiaries are the families and loved ones of pickup truck occupants who will not be killed or severely injured in a crash because they are wearing their safety belts.

Just remember that with this new law, there are no more warnings and no more excuses. No matter what you drive or where you drive, *if you don't want to click it, expect a ticket.*

For more information on Georgia's new Georgia's new pickup truck safety belt law, visit [www.gahighwaysafety.org](http://www.gahighwaysafety.org).

*Contact your local law enforcement agency for information about CIOT enforcement road checks, patrols and campaign activities in your community.*

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