



# **Ortonville Police Department**

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**NEWS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**2011 SEAT BELT USE RATES —  
91 PERCENT LOCALLY, 92.7 PERCENT STATEWIDE**

91 percent of Ortonville area motorists are buckling up following 2011 *Click It or Ticket* enhanced seat belt education and enforcement campaigns that occurred in May and October, according to the Ortonville Police Department.

Ortonville Police Department conducted informal belt observational surveys of motorists earlier this year.

“It’s encouraging more motorists are making safe decisions,” says Ortonville Chief of Police Jason Mork. “The math is simple, the more of us buckling up, the fewer preventable tragedies there will be.”

In Big Stone County during the last three years, zero unbelted motorists were killed and two were seriously injured. Statewide during this same period, 409 unbelted motorists were killed and 814 suffered serious, life-altering injuries.

Seat belts must be worn correctly — low and snug across the hips; shoulder straps should never be tucked under an arm or behind the back.

During the October seat belt campaign, Oct. 14–27, officers enforced the state’s primary seat belt law that requires passengers in all seating positions, including the back seat, to be buckled up or seated in the correct child restraint. Ortonville Police Department issued zero seat belt and zero child restraint citations during the two week effort.

The campaign also included enforcement of Minnesota’s strengthened child passenger safety law which requires children to use a booster seat starting after they have outgrown a forward-facing harnessed restraint (typically 40–60 pounds, depending on seat’s weight limitations). Children should remain in a booster until they are age 8 or 4 feet 9 inches tall — whichever comes first. It is recommended, however, to keep a child in a booster based on their height rather than age. Boosters help adult seat belts fit children correctly.

The *Click It or Ticket* seat belt education and enforcement campaign is a component of the state’s *Toward Zero Death (TZD)* initiative. A primary vision of the *TZD* program is to create a safe driving culture in Minnesota in which motorists support a goal of zero road fatalities by practicing and promoting safe and smart driving behavior. *TZD* focuses on the application of four strategic areas to reduce crashes — education, enforcement, engineering and emergency trauma response.

**“To Serve and Protect”**