

Sheriff



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GIVE THANKS FOR LIVES SAVED BY SEAT BELTS

Buckle Up. Every Trip. Every Time.



The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office would like to remind you that seat belts have saved more lives than any other single piece of automotive safety equipment. But in order for them to work, they have to be used. This Thanksgiving, and every day and night of the year, please make sure you buckle up your seat belt.

Nationally, during the Thanksgiving holiday period in 2009 (which ran from 6 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 25, to 5:59 a.m., Monday, November 30), 303 passenger vehicle occupants died in motor vehicle traffic crashes, including 115 during daylight hours (6 a.m. to 5:59 p.m.) and 187 during night time (6 p.m. to 5:59 a.m.). One fatality occurred during an unknown time period.

According to the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), night time is one of the more dangerous times on the road because seat belt use is traditionally lower. Of the 187 passenger vehicle occupant deaths at night during the 2009 Thanksgiving holiday period, over one-half (54%) did not have their seat belts fastened (where seat belt use was known); while 49 percent in day-time crashes were not wearing seat belts.

There is no holiday more closely associated with the American family, or with American travel, than Thanksgiving. But if you hit the highways unbelted, the faces you could be seeing this Holiday might belong to an emergency room physician or nurse instead of the faces of your family and friends.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), regular seat belt use is the single most effective way to protect people and reduce fatalities in motor vehicle crashes. Research has shown that when lap and shoulder belts are used properly, the risk of fatal injury to front seat passenger car occupants is reduced by 45 percent, and the risk of moderate to serious injury is reduced by 50 percent.

Please drive in a safe and courteous manner and obey all traffic laws when on the roadways this holiday.

The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office would like to wish all of our residents and visitors a happy and safe Thanksgiving holiday!

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The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office is accredited by the
Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation.

"The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office provides equal access and equal opportunity in employment and services and does not discriminate"