

Latah County Sheriff's Office and Lewiston Police Department

Joint Media Release

To: All Media Outlets
From: Det. Jennifer McFarland
Public Information Officer
Sgt. Ted Piche'
Lewiston Police Department
Date: November 9, 2006
RE: Click It, Don't Risk It! Campaign

The Latah County Sheriff's Office and the Lewiston Police Department are joining with other Idaho law enforcement agencies November 13 through the 26th in the *Click It, Don't Risk It!* seatbelt campaign. Both departments will be out in force making sure that drivers are buckled up. We're giving warnings now; we'll be giving tickets November 13-26.

Twenty percent of Idahoans fail to fasten their seatbelts and account for 60 percent of the people killed in traffic crashes costing the state and taxpayers \$575 million a year. "That's money that could have been saved by a quick click of a seat belt," said Sergeant Ted Piche' of the Lewiston Police Department. Sgt. Piche' was "saved by the belt" when he was involved in a crash while on-duty in 2001.

"If education doesn't get people to buckle up, maybe a ticket will serve as a gentle reminder," according to Sergeant Phil Gray of the Latah County Sheriff's Office. Idaho's seatbelt law requires everyone in a vehicle to be properly restrained no matter where they are seated. Fines for breaking Idaho's safety restraint laws range from \$10 to \$69, "and those tickets *will* be issued," said Sgt. Gray.

The Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) and Idaho law enforcement agencies statewide are reminding people that buckling up is the best defense against serious injury or death for drivers and their passengers. During this two-week campaign drivers won't be warned, they'll be ticketed and fined. To avoid your ticket *Click It, Don't Risk It!*

For more information about the Click It, Don't Risk It! campaign, contact Det. Jennifer McFarland at LCSO (208-892-5664) or Sgt. Ted Piche' at LPD (208-746-0171).

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