

# Edwardsville Police Department Arrive Safely This Thanksgiving: Buckle Up!

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EDWARDSVILLE - As millions of motorists hit the road to celebrate Thanksgiving, Illinois law enforcement will be working around the clock to make sure holiday travelers are buckled up and driving safely. The Edwardsville Police Department is joining the Illinois Department of Transportation and the Illinois State Police to remind motorists to “Click It or Ticket.”

The goal of this high-visibility effort is to reduce motor vehicle crashes and the resulting injuries and fatalities. Correct seatbelt use is the most effective way to protect vehicle occupants. According to IDOT, the statewide seatbelt usage rate is at 93%.

“Wearing your seat belt is second nature for most,” said Lt. Barry Jones. “We’re looking for the 7% of Illinois motorists who skip this lifesaving step.”

Drivers and passengers can expect a ticket from the Edwardsville Police Department if they are spotted without a seat belt. Stepped-up patrols and seat belt enforcement zones will be seen throughout Edwardsville and the state from Nov. 18-28.

If you’ll be celebrating with alcohol or other impairing substances, please remember:

- Plan for a sober ride home before you go out.
- If you’ve been drinking or using marijuana or other drugs, call a taxi, take mass transit, or call a family member to get you home safely.
- Use your favorite ride-share services, such as Uber or Lyft, or use public transportation.
- Use your community’s designated driver program.
- If you see a drunk driver, pull over safely and call 911.
- Make sure everyone in your vehicle wears their seat belt. It is the best defense against an impaired driver.

The Thanksgiving enforcement effort is made possible by federal traffic safety funds administered by the Illinois Department of Transportation.