



# EL SEGUNDO POLICE DEPARTMENT

348 MAIN STREET, EL SEGUNDO, CA 90245

(310) 524-2200

MITCH TAVERA, CHIEF OF POLICE

## Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 17, 2011



## One Million Californians Still Not Buckling Up

As families across California plan for upcoming spring travel, there's not much you can do to control the cost of filling up the gas tank, but you can avoid a costly ticket by making sure that everyone in the car wears their seat belt. Law enforcement throughout the state, including the El Segundo Police Department will be looking for unbelted drivers and passengers as part of the 2011 *Click It or Ticket* mobilization, May 23 – June 5. The fines and fees for first time adult seat belt violations is a minimum of \$142. For children under 16, the fine is \$445 for a first time offense.

California's current seat belt use rate of 96.2 percent is at an all-time high, but that still leaves nearly one million people who are not buckling up, putting their lives at risk every time they get into the car. The *Click It or Ticket* mobilization is credited with increasing the state's adult seat belt usage rate from 92.5 percent in 2005 to 96.2 percent in 2010.

Properly restrained drivers, passengers and children have a 50 percent better chance of surviving a crash than unbelted occupants. Those ejected from vehicles in crashes or roll-overs are up to 35 times more likely to die than restrained occupants. In 2009 alone, seat belts saved approximately 12,713 lives nationwide. In California, it is estimated that 320 people who were killed in 2009 would be alive today if they had been wearing seat belts.

Please contact El Segundo Police Lieutenant Carlos Mendoza, (310)524-2254  
[cmendoza@elsegundo.org](mailto:cmendoza@elsegundo.org) if you have any questions regarding the enforcement efforts.