



**“BUCKLE UP EVERY TRIP
EVERY TIME”
THANKSGIVING 2008 PLANNER**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Date: November 26, 2008
Chief Jim Washam

**Kingston Police Department Urges Motorists
To Buckle Up Every Trip, Every Time,
This Thanksgiving Week**

[KINGSTON TENNESSEE] – The Thanksgiving holiday should be a joyous time for all families in America, but far too often the celebration turns to tragedy on the nation’s highways.

“I urge everyone driving on our state’s roads this holiday period to drive carefully, don’t drive impaired and, most importantly, buckle up each and every trip, night or day,” said Jim Washam Kingston Police Chief.

Nationally, during the Thanksgiving holiday period* in 2007, 427 passenger vehicle occupants died in motor vehicle traffic crashes, including 180 during daylight (6 am to 5:59 pm) hours and 241 during night time (6 pm to 5:59 am) (Six deaths were unknown regarding time). *Thanksgiving holiday period – 6 pm Wednesday, Nov 21, 2007, to 5:59 am Monday, November 26, 2007.

Night time is one of the more dangerous times on the road because seat belt use is lower. Of the 241 night-time Thanksgiving passenger vehicle occupant deaths nationally in 2007, almost two thirds (135) died with their seat belts unfastened (where restraint use was known); while almost half of the day-time deaths were not wearing seat belts.

“To lose a loved one is a terrible thing to experience, especially during America’s family holiday, but to lose one’s life when it might have been saved by taking two seconds to buckle a seat belt is truly senseless,” said Washam.

Regular seat belt use is the single most effective way to protect people and reduce fatalities in motor vehicle crashes, according to NHTSA. 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.

“If you fail to buckle up during this holiday period, you run the risk of getting a ticket, or worse, getting killed or injured,” Washam warned. “Make sure the only belt you unbuckle this Thanksgiving is the one at the dinner table, not the one in your vehicle.”

For more information about highway safety during Thanksgiving, please visit www.nhtsa.gov.