

Troopers with the Nebraska State Patrol will join their law enforcement counterparts from across the nation in a Thanksgiving holiday campaign designed to save lives by enforcing seat belt usage.

Monday, Nov. 21, through Sunday, Nov. 27, troopers and communication specialists will put in extra hours as part of the "Click It or Ticket" enforcement campaign. A \$15,000 grant from the Nebraska Office of Highway Safety (NOHS) helps to pay for the additional enforcement.

"There are consequences to be paid when you don't wear your seat belt," said Colonel David Sankey, Superintendent of the Nebraska State Patrol. "You may end up with a citation or warning, or you could be injured or even killed in a motor vehicle crash. The Patrol hopes to prevent the latter by getting motorists to buckle-up."

During the "Click It or Ticket" enforcement period, troopers will concentrate on reducing crash causing behaviors such as speeding, following too closely, impaired or distracted driving and failure to buckle-up."

Statistics from the NOHS show motor vehicle crashes remain the leading cause of death for people between five and 34 years of age. Seat belts reduce the likelihood of injury or death in a crash by up to 50 percent.

Colonel Sankey said, "By making sure everyone in your vehicle is wearing their seat belt, you are putting the odds of surviving a crash in your favor."