

Reduce serious injury and fatality crashes, increase visibility and raise awareness of seat belt usage are the goals behind the Nebraska State Patrol’s participation in the national “Click It or Ticket” enforcement campaign, Nov. 19-25.

The special enforcement encompasses the Thanksgiving holiday weekend, one of the most heavily traveled time periods on the nation’s highways.

“When we look at the numbers, we see that the lack of seat belt usage has significantly contributed to the increase in roadway deaths. Don’t become a statistic, buckle-up, every trip, every time.”

As of Nov. 15, there have been 183 people killed on Nebraska roads in 2012. That compares with 159 roadway fatalities at this same time in 2011. Of the 183 people killed, 144 people died in motor vehicle crashes where occupant restraints were available. Of those 144 fatalities, 93 were not wearing seat belts.

Thanks in part to a \$24,600 grant from the Nebraska Office of Highway Safety (NOHS), troopers and communication specialists will work overtime hours during the campaign.

Travelers wishing to report a reckless or impaired driver, or anyone needing non-emergency roadside assistance should call the NSP Highway Helpline when safe to do so, at (star) *55 from any cellular phone or 1-800-525-5555 from any landline. Motorists wanting weather or road construction information should dial 511 or log on the Nebraska Advanced Traveler Information System website at www.511.nebraska.