



Bureau of Transportation Safety  
and Technology  
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## NEWS RELEASE

Kansas Department of Transportation News Release

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Primary Seatbelt Enforcement – No More Warnings

TOPEKA – Beginning June 30, 2010, citations for non-seatbelt use will be issued, ending the warning period for the new primary seatbelt law, which went into effect June 10.

Law enforcement officers in Kansas will now be able to stop and ticket drivers and front-seat passengers who are not wearing safety belts even if the officers do not observe another traffic violation. The new law also makes it a secondary violation for adults in the back-seat, which means they may only be fined if another citation is issued. This does not affect the existing law for anyone under 18; it is still a primary offense if they are unrestrained anywhere in the vehicle.

When worn correctly, safety belts have proven to reduce the risk of fatal injury to front-seat passenger car occupants by 45 percent – and by 60 percent in pickup trucks, SUVs and minivans. That research becomes significant when coupled with KDOT statistics showing that only 30% of people killed in motor vehicle crashes in 2008 were buckled at the time of the crash. Currently, Kansas' safety belt use rate is 77 percent, which is one of the lowest in the nation (43rd out of 50 states) and well below the national average of 84 percent.

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