

# Statewide Traffic Action Response (STAR)



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### **BUCKLE UP” FOR THANKSGIVING!**

Buckle up? If you don’t, the CHP is looking for you. “The latest data shows that 92.5 percent of Californians are wearing their safety belts,” Business Transportation and Housing Agency Secretary Sunne Wright McPeak said. “That’s a great accomplishment, but because we know that safety belts save lives, this holiday season we will make every effort to increase that number.”

Between 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 23 and midnight, Sunday November 27, the CHP will implement a Maximum Enforcement Period (MEP). “During this time, up to eighty percent of our officers will be working so your family can safely arrive at and enjoy holiday celebrations,” Commissioner Mike Brown said.

The state Office of Traffic Safety director believes wearing a safety belt is the single most effective thing motorists can do to save lives and reduce injuries on California’s roadways. “Two seconds is all it takes to buckle a seat belt. That could be the difference between life and death in a crash,” said Christopher J. Murphy, Director of the state Office of Traffic Safety. In addition to adults, parents and guardians need to make sure their younger children are in properly attached safety and booster seats and those six and over are buckled up as well.

Last year, 56 people were killed on California roadways during the Thanksgiving holiday period. Of those killed, 38 percent were not wearing their seat belts. Many of those people would be alive today if they had just taken that one second to buckle-up.

In addition to the safety belt effort, the Operation STAR partners will intensify their efforts to get impaired drivers off the road. Alcoholic Beverage Control investigators will be working in communities to ensure that licensed businesses are complying with the law.

“Thanksgiving is a time for families and friends to get together and we want to do our part to ensure it is a safe holiday period,” said ABC Director Jerry Jolly.

That sentiment is echoed by DMV Chief Deputy Director Ken Miyao. “Especially during this time of year, the DMV encourages everyone to be safety conscious, whether driving or a passenger in a car – it’s simple. Be safe. Buckle up. It’s the law,” said Miyao.

“The Thanksgiving MEP is also an Operation CARE (Combined Accident Reduction Effort) holiday. Operation CARE is a joint program of the nation’s highway patrols that promotes safe driving on interstate highways during holiday periods,” the Commissioner said. CARE highways in California include Interstates 80, 40, 15 (San Bernardino to the Nevada border) and 5 (Bakersfield north to the Oregon line).

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