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Press Release

ACPD to check seat belts on Nat'l Child Passenger Safety Week

McCaslin: Strict seat belt enforcement around Ark City schools saves lives

ARKANSAS CITY, Kan. (September 10, 2015) — The Arkansas City Police Department will be extra vigilant regarding seat belt use when patrolling around schools next week, which has been designated nationally as National Child Passenger Safety Week.

On Sept. 14-18, the Arkansas City Police Department will join other Kansas law enforcement agencies to stop what has been likened to an epidemic in Kansas.

In 2014, 28 children younger than 18 lost their lives due to car crashes in Kansas. Sadly, half of those children were not wearing their seat belts, and eight of them were ejected from the vehicle.

"In the health field, they talk about making sure children have received their immunizations to prevent deadly diseases," said ACPD Capt. Mark McCaslin. "But what many parents don't think about is that wearing a seat belt properly is the best prevention of serious injury or death in a vehicle."

Children are much more likely to be buckled up if the driver is wearing his or her seat belt, according to the 2015 Kansas observational seat belt survey.

If the driver is buckled, about 95 percent of the children are restrained. If the driver is not buckled, only about 25 percent of the observed children were buckled.

"We want adults to model good driver behavior for the children," McCaslin said.

For more than twenty years, officers have educated and warned drivers and passengers regarding the importance of using seat belts while in their vehicles.

"There should be no surprises when it comes to this enforcement effort," McCaslin said. "Officers will issue citations to anyone who does not obey Kansas law. Even one child's death is unacceptable. Please slow down, especially in school zones, eliminate the distractions, and always buckle up."

For immediate release

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For the latest data or to see more about Kansas safety belt laws, visit www.ktsro.org.