



For Immediate Release

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WSP: Remember to buckle up before you drive

BREMERTON – The Washington State Patrol (WSP) is reminding drivers and passengers to buckle up before they hit the road in response to a number of fatality collisions involving unsecured occupants.

Of the seven fatality collisions investigated in WSP District 8 so far this year, four involved unbelted occupants. The collisions occurred in Mason, Grays Harbor and Kitsap counties.

“One of the safest choices you can make today when you enter your vehicle is to buckle up, and check that your passengers are safely and properly wearing their belts,” said District 8 Captain James Mjor. “This lifesaving piece of equipment is the difference between a non-injury and fatality collision, and is proven to be the most effective way to save lives and reduce injuries during a crash.”

WSP troopers will be holding emphasis patrols throughout the summer, offering education and creating increased awareness among drivers and their passengers about the importance of seatbelt use.

According to the Washington Traffic Safety Commission ([WTSC](#)), seatbelt use decreases the chance of someone dying or being seriously injured in a collision by about 70 percent.

SEATBELT LAWS

Failure to wear a seatbelt is a primary offense ([RCW 46.61.688](#)) and could result in a \$139 fine if stopped. Additionally, drivers and occupants may also be contacted for wearing their seatbelt improperly, such as behind their back or under their arm.

If stopped for a child restraint violation ([RCW 46.61.687](#)), the \$139 fine falls to the driver for failing to properly secure the child, no matter the relation.

WSP District 8 serves Clallam, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Kitsap, Mason, Pacific, and Wahkiakum counties

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