



TRAFFIC ALERT



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SEAT BELTS SAVE LIVES!



The officer in this vehicle was involved in a traffic crash near the intersection of 7900 South Damen Avenue. The officer was responding to a call of a battery in progress with the offender on the scene. While traveling through the intersection a vehicle struck the officer's squad car. The officer's vehicle then collided with a Semi Truck. The force of this crash caused the deployment of the air bag.

The officer in this vehicle was wearing his seat belt and he survived a Life threatening crash. Plain and simple, wear your seatbelt and stay alive!



Equally important - ensure that you are wearing your safety belt correctly

1. Department vehicles are equipped with airbags; air bags are designed to be used in conjunction with safety belts commonly referred to as seat belts. By themselves, air bags are only 12% effective at reducing deaths.
2. Buckling up correctly is a snap! Putting on your safety belt can take as little as 3 seconds.
3. Adjust the lap belt to fit low and tight across your hips/pelvis, not your stomach area.
4. Place the shoulder belt snug across the center of your chest, covering the shoulder and away from the neck. (A properly positioned shoulder belt is designed to stop your forward movement within 6 inches).
5. Never place the shoulder belt behind your back or under your arm.

Facts / Statistics

According to the National Law Enforcement Memorial statistics, 181 law enforcement officers across the nation died in the line of duty during 2007. **The top two causes of death in 2007 were Shootings (68) and Auto Accidents (60).** In 2006, 151 law enforcement officers across the nation died in the line of duty. Again, the top two causes of death were **Shootings (54) and Auto Accidents (45).** **This represents a 21% increase in shooting deaths and a 25% increase of traffic crash deaths from 2006 to 2007.**

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration website, every 15 seconds someone is injured in a traffic crash. If you are not buckled up, you could be thrown through a window, sent skidding along the pavement or crushed under a vehicle in a crash. Someone is killed in a crash every 13 minutes. However, seat belts save over 11,000 lives each year, and they can help you maintain control of your car in a crash.

Department Members Set the Example

Deciding whether to wear your safety belt is not an option. Safety belts provide the greatest protection against disabling injuries caused by ejection from the vehicle. It can be just as important as wearing your safety vest. It is required by Law and General Orders. Your safety, health and welfare are issues that concern not only the Department, but you and your family as well. Department members are encouraged to educate the public, as well to increase enforcement of the safety belt/child safety restraint laws. Many States are conducting heightened enforcement of their safety belt laws. Safety belt violations can mean discipline to department members. More importantly, the use of safety belts can save your life.

Buckle –Up, Every Trip, Every Time

Be Safe

Be Smart

Buckle-Up