



Traffic Alert



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LIVE ! With A Seat Belt

G.O. 97-2-6: Simply stated the order requires that all department members operating or occupying the front passenger seat of a Department motor vehicle, while in motion, will wear properly adjusted **and** fastened seat safety belts.

OFFICERS:

Understanding the need to wear a seat belt while patrolling in a Police Vehicle, is as simple as understanding Elementary school science, namely, "Newton's Law of Motion." Newton's law simply states the following: "**AN OBJECT STAYS IN MOTION UNTIL IT IS ACTED UPON SOMETHING TO STOP IT.**" So, if you the Officer are unrestrained in a Police Vehicle, you will stay in motion until you strike something to stop your motion. Also everything in the vehicle that is not restrained during a crash will travel at the same speed as the vehicle prior to it being stopped.

Examples of *projectiles* in a Police vehicle: Ticket Books, Clipboards, Batons, Pop Bottles, and most importantly: **AN UNRESTRAINED POLICE PARTNER !**

If the Police vehicle is traveling 30 mph and collides with a tree head on, your body unrestrained, will travel within the compartment of the vehicle at a speed of 30 mph, until you hit something to stop your movement.

Think you can brace yourself fully against this force? Here is how strong you would have to be: The simplified version of this formula is weight times (x) the speed of the vehicle equals (=) the total pounds of restraining force needed to hold that object, (your body).

Example: A 200 lb. Officer, (unrestrained), traveling 30 mph, strikes a tree head on. This Officer would be attempting to brace himself against an estimated **6,000 lbs.** of force. You are probably going to collide with the steering wheel and/or windshield, or possibly be ejected from the vehicle.

A Crash Entails 3 Separate Collisions :

1. *Vehicle:* The Police Vehicle collides with another object causing it to cease any further movement.
2. *Human:* Within 1/10 of a second after a crash, your Police vehicle will come to a dead stop, but you will continue moving forward at the same speed your vehicle was traveling. You the officer will then be slammed into the dashboard or windshield if your are not belted.
3. *Internal:* Once you the Officer have been slammed into the interior of the Police vehicle, your body will stop moving, but your internal organs will collide with other organs and/or your skeletal system.

NOTE: During a Police Vehicle crash, safety belts will distribute the forces of rapid deceleration over a larger and stronger part of the human body such as the chest, hips, and shoulders. The head, face, and chest are also less likely to strike the steering wheel, windshield, dashboard, or the vehicle's interior frame. Your forward momentum will be checked and you will come to a safe and non-impact stop.

Be Safe

Be Courteous

Be Professional