



PRESS RELEASE

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- I. DATE OF PRESS RELEASE: June 1, 2011
- II. ANNOUNCEMENT:
Occupant Protection is the Traffic Safety Topic for June 2011

III. INFORMATION:

The Livermore Police Department will be focusing its traffic enforcement efforts during the month of June on occupant protection violations. Officers will be looking for drivers and passengers who are not properly restrained in their vehicles. Even though Livermore's last seatbelt use rate survey revealed a 99% compliance rate we still continue to find drivers and passengers not properly wearing seatbelts. There have been only two fatal collisions in Livermore since November of 2008. In both collisions, the people who were killed were not wearing their seatbelts. Had they been properly restrained in their vehicles, we believe they would have survived the collisions.

The Livermore Police Department hopes that by continually educating the public on the importance of being properly restrained while traveling in a motor vehicle we can reduce the number of injuries and deaths resulting from traffic collisions in our community.

Officer Joe Nguyen is a long time traffic officer for LPD. Officer Nguyen stated, *"During my past 20 years in law enforcement, I have investigated and/or assisted in several fatal collisions where I believe the occupants' lives would have been saved if they were properly restrained. Those unfortunate experiences have given me the drive and motivation to educate motorists to properly restrain themselves when traveling on the roadways. Seatbelts, when worn properly, will reduce your chances of being seriously injured in a collision. In my travels, I often see drivers and passengers wear the seatbelt improperly. One of the common mistakes is placing the seatbelt strap under the arm, instead of having it diagonally across the chest, as designed by the vehicle's manufacturer. The diagonal strap protects the occupant's upper torso from thrusting forward into a dashboard or steering wheel when a collision occurs. This practice is not only unsafe, but not legal under Vehicle Code Section 27315. In most cases, when I contact a driver who was not wearing the seat belt, they often explain to me that they were just leaving their house, a store, or just going for a short drive. Statistics have shown that most vehicle collisions occur a short distance from the driver's residence or destination. Others just simply forgot to buckle up. To reduce your chances from injuries in a vehicle collision, or a citation from law enforcement, just simply remember to buckle up BEFORE turning on the ignition."*

In addition to the dedicated enforcement efforts looking for unrestrained drivers and passengers, the Livermore Police Department continues to work to educate parents about properly restraining their children in their vehicles. It is crucial that a child's car/booster seat is installed correctly. This is why the Livermore Police Department offers free monthly car seat checks. The car seat check for June will be held on Thursday June 9th. For an appointment call Officer Traci Rebiejo at (925) 371-4858.

The Livermore Police Department is committed to traffic safety and the safety of our

citizens. We appreciate our partnerships that we share with the community and the Office of Traffic Safety toward this goal. Please buckle up and buckle up your family when traveling in a motor vehicle.

The Livermore Police Department will be conducting several seatbelt and car seat enforcement operations during the month of June.

If you have any questions regarding occupant safety contact the Livermore Police Department Traffic Division at 925 371-4850.

IV. CONTACT PERSON: Officer Joe Nguyen
PHONE NUMBER: (925) 371-4850