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NEWS RELEASE

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Buckle Up Arizona...No Excuses!

Final Statistics for "Click it or Ticket Enforcement" Enforcement Campaign May 24th –June 6th, 2010

12,950 citations issued during the two-week enforcement campaign

PHOENIX - The Governor's Office of Highway Safety ("GOHS") is proud to announce the results from the most recent "Buckle Up Arizona...It's the Law!" seatbelt and child safety seat enforcement campaign from May 24 through June 6. The goal of the campaign, as part of the national "Click it or Ticket" event, was to increase seatbelt usage throughout Arizona. During this time period, total citations were up 50% from the previous February enforcement campaign and seat belt citations increased 59%.

"I am very proud of the time and effort devoted to this campaign by law enforcement officers", said GOHS Director Alberto Gutier. Gutier continued **"Even though Arizona is a secondary law state for seatbelt usage, law enforcement officers implemented a zero tolerance approach on drivers who are in violation of state traffic laws."**

For this campaign, the Governor's Office of Highway Safety provided \$282,000 in grant funding to 39 law enforcement agencies throughout the state. These as well as 20 other agencies, participated in enhanced enforcement of safety belt and child passenger safety laws during this two week period.

In 2008, seat belts saved an estimated 13,250 lives in the U.S. When used properly, seat belts can reduce the risk of fatal injury to front-seat passengers by 45 percent and can reduce the risk of moderate-to-critical injury by 50 percent.

"The dedication of the officers and deputies in the past two weeks helped prevent needless tragedies on our streets and highways," said Alberto Gutier. Law enforcement agencies in this period arrested 147 alcohol and/or drug impaired drivers for DUI, 48 suspects for felony criminal offenses, 31 drug arrests and cleared 98 outstanding warrants in addition to issuing 3,452 speeding citations.

BUCKLE UP ARIZONA... IT'S THE LAW!