



## TEMPLE TERRACE POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS RELEASE

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Before You Hit the Road This Thanksgiving: *Buckle Up America – Every Trip, Every Time.***

**TEMPLE TERRACE, FL. – (11/17/15)** – The Temple Terrace Police Department is joining in a national effort to reach out to all Thanksgiving travelers with one important message: buckle up.

Thanksgiving is the busiest travel time of the year, putting more people on the road, and unfortunately increasing the likelihood of crashes. Each year in our country, tens of thousands of passenger vehicle occupants die in motor vehicle crashes during the Thanksgiving holidays. In 2013, more than 300 people were killed in crashes on Thanksgiving weekend alone. Many of those deaths could have been prevented with one simple click of a seat belt.

The U. S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) estimates that proper seat belt use reduces the risk of fatal injury to front seat passengers by 45 percent, and the risk of moderate to serious injury by 50 percent. In 2013, approximately 12,584 people survived crashes because they were buckled up, the organization estimates.

“More than half the drivers and passengers being killed in crashes aren’t wearing seat belts. That’s a major problem,” said Capt. Mike Pridemore of the Temple Terrace Police Department. “It is even worse at night. Nearly 64 percent of vehicle occupants killed at night are unbuckled.”

Younger drivers are the most likely to be unbuckled in a fatal crash, Pridemore noted.

“For those people who already buckle up every time: Thank you,” Pridemore said. “For them, this campaign serves as a reminder. But for those who still don’t buckle up, for whatever reason, I want to say this: buckling your seat belt is one of the simplest, safest things you’ll ever do.”

This Thanksgiving, make sure you buckle up before you start any road trip, whether it’s just one mile or a thousand.

For more information about traveling safely during Thanksgiving, please visit [www.nhtsa.gov](http://www.nhtsa.gov).