

## OPP reports deaths up from not wearing seatbelts

OPP are reminding motorists that wearing a seatbelt while in a vehicle is the law and officers intend to actively enforce that law during the current Fall Seatbelt Campaign.

So far this year, 42 people have been killed on OPP-patrolled roads who were not wearing a seat belt in comparison to 34 people last year over the same period. The most recent OPP statistics are even more alarming; during the week of Sept. 7 to 13, seven people were killed in collisions in Ontario, and six of those people were not wearing a seatbelt.

“Adult seatbelt use is the most effective way to save lives and reduce injuries in motor vehicle collisions,” OPP Deputy Commissioner Brad Blair said. “Yet thousands of adults still do not wear their seatbelts on every trip. Not wearing a seat belt can be a fatal decision, even on short, familiar journeys and at low speeds. We know that enforcement of seat belt laws does make a difference in getting more people to buckle up, so OPP officers will be diligent during this campaign.”

A driver can be charged and face a fine totalling \$240 and two demerit points for seatbelt infractions.

Under the Highway Traffic Act, any person travelling in a motor vehicle who is at least 16 years of age must occupy a seat with a seatbelt. Parents are reminded that passengers younger than 16 must be properly buckled up in a car seat, booster seat or seat belt, whichever is appropriate for their age, height and weight.

The Ministry of Transportation's website has comprehensive information about properly restraining a child, including proper car seat installation. This information can be found on their Road Safety page at [www.mto.gov.on.ca](http://www.mto.gov.on.ca)