



Police Department

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8/11/11

As a participant in the Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau (GTSB) program the North Liberty Police Department conducted a seat belt usage survey of motorists traveling in North Liberty during the month of August. The results of the survey are reported to GTSB who compiles data collected from other communities across Iowa to compute the overall state usage rate.

The usage rate in North Liberty as determined by this most recent survey is 94.6 %. This is a slight increase from a survey done earlier this year in which the rate was 94.3 %. Overall the usage rate in North Liberty has remained relatively stable over the last 2 years. The statistics fall in line with or slightly above the overall state average and is well above the overall national rate.

The North Liberty Police Dept. applauds the overwhelming majority of motorists who buckle up and encourages the rest to join in. Research has proven the proper use of a seat belt significantly reduces the risk of serious injury or death in a motor vehicle crash.

Below are key points of the current (July 2010) Iowa Seat Belt Law (Iowa Code 321.445):

- Applies to all front seat occupants
- Applies to rear seat occupants up to the age of 18
- Vehicle must be in forward motion
- Applies to both Iowa and out-of-state vehicles
- Belt systems must be used properly
 - Belt across lap, not stomach
 - Strap over shoulder, not under arm or behind back
- Belts must be present as produced by manufacturer – not removed or disconnected
- Failure to use is probable cause to stop a vehicle:
 - An officer may investigate suspected violation
- Driver and passengers may be cited separately

Failure to comply with the seat belt law may result in a citation which is a \$50 fine plus court costs/surcharge for a current total fine of \$127.50.