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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Buckle Up: It's 'Click it or Ticket' Time 2006

SAN LUIS OBISPO -- Cal Poly University Police is participating in this year's annual "Click it or Ticket" seat belt safety campaign May 15 to June 4.

UPD staff will monitor the number of on-campus drivers who don't wear seat belts May 8-14. During the campaign period, May 15 to June 4, officers will write tickets to drivers not wearing seat belts. UPD will again monitor on-campus drivers June 5-11, to determine if seat belt use rates increase.

Other law enforcement agencies in the county, including the San Luis Obispo City Police Department and the California Highway Patrol, are also participating in the campaign. UPD received a grant from the state to allow the university to participate in this year's effort.

California's seat belt usage rate increased 2.1 percentage points from 90.4 percent in 2004 to 92.5 percent in 2005 -- which is significantly better than the national average of 82 percent and represents the largest single year increase since 2001. The 2.1 percent increase in seat belt use means 657,000 non-seat belt users are now buckling up. Approximately 2.7 million Californians are still not buckling up.

"What we're trying to do is remind students, faculty and staff that seat belts should be automatic," said UPD Chief Bill Watton. "It is very important for people to know that most accidents happen close to home or work, and even a short trip demands the use of seat belts."

In California, the fine for a seat belt violation ticket for those ages 16 and older is \$66.00. The fine for drivers ticketed for child passengers (under age 16) not buckled into seat belts is \$330.00. "There really is no excuse when it comes to children and seat belts," Watton reminded. "For safety, all children need to be buckled into a safety belt or a child safety seat."

For more details about the "Click it or Ticket" campaign or Vehicle restraint laws, contact University Police Department Sergeant Carol Montgomery at (805) 756-6682.

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