

Have a safe and happy Thanksgiving!

**"O Lord that lends me life, lend me a heart replete with thankfulness."**

- William Shakespeare

# Buckle Up before getting on the road this holiday weekend

State Troopers and local law enforcement officers join national "Click It or Ticket" seat belt campaign

The Georgia State Patrol, the Governor's Office of Highway Safety, GOHS Traffic Enforcement Networks, and GOHS H.E.A.T. units remind everyone to avoid getting a ticket during the Thanksgiving holiday weekend by remembering to click their seat belt before every trip.

State troopers and local law enforcement officers will be working throughout the extended holiday weekend to save lives and prevent crashes by enforcing speeding, DUI, hands-free, seat belt and all traffic safety laws during the extended Thanksgiving holiday weekend that will begin at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 24 and end at 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, November 28.

Wearing a seat belt offers the best protection in the event of a traffic crash. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, eight out of 10 people (81%) riding in passenger vehicles who were ejected in a crash in the United States in 2019 were killed.

The risk of a fatal injury in a crash to a person riding in the front seat of a passenger car goes down by 45 percent when that person is wearing a seat belt, and the risk is reduced by 60 percent for those who are riding in the front seat of a light truck. "With so many vehicles expected on the road, it is important for drivers to pack their patience by obeying the speed

limit, wearing their seat belt, and making sure all children under eight are riding in an approved child safety seat," Allen Poole, Director of the Governor's Office of Highway Safety said. "Instead of spending the holiday with their families, Georgia law enforcement officers will be enforcing traffic laws with the goal to make sure you and your family can safely reach your destination."

The safety message from state and local law enforcement officers for the 2021 Thanksgiving holiday travel period comes after the Georgia State Patrol reported 24 people were killed in traffic crashes during the 102-hour holiday weekend in 2020. Ten of the 23 people riding in passenger vehicles who died in Georgia last year's Thanksgiving holiday period were not wearing seat belts.

According to NHTSA, 54 percent of the 279 passenger vehicle occupants who were killed in crashes during the 2019 Thanksgiving holiday travel period in the United States were not wearing seat belts.

The data also shows that over the 2019 Thanksgiving weekend, 52 percent of the passenger vehicle occupants killed in crashes at night were unbuckled, compared to 42 percent during the day.

"As we approach this special time of year, many people will be traveling on our roadways to visit their families, friends, and loved ones for the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays," Colonel Chris Wright, Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Public Safety said. "State Troop-

ers and M.C.C.D. officers will be concentrating on occupant protection during these holiday periods as well as distracted driving violations and impaired drivers. So far this year, approximately 58 percent of fatality victims have not been wearing seat belts. Increase the chances of occupants in your vehicle surviving a traffic crash by making sure everyone is wearing their seat belt and children are properly restrained in the appropriate child or booster seat. Buckle up! Every Trip, Every Time!"

State troopers and local law enforcement officers also

remind everyone to not get behind the wheel if they have been drinking. Thanksgiving Eve is a popular time for friends and family to visit, and many of these gatherings include alcohol. According to NHTSA's Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS), 32 people were killed in crashes in Georgia from 2015-19 on Thanksgiving Eve and in the early morning hours of Thanksgiving. Nine of those people died in crashes involving a driver whose blood-alcohol content (BAC) was higher than the .08 legal limit in Georgia. The Governor's Of-

fice of Highway Safety, state troopers, and local law enforcement officers remind everyone to plan for a sober ride home when alcohol is part of the plan. Whether it is a family member or friend, make sure anyone whose BAC level is above the legal limit of .08 does not get behind the wheel.

The Governor's Office of Highway Safety, Georgia Department of Public Safety, GOHS Traffic Enforcement Networks, and GOHS H.E.A.T. units offer the following safety tips for those who will be traveling during the Thanksgiving holiday period.

Allow extra time for your trip due to the increase in traffic on the road

Do not try to make up

time by speeding. Better to arrive late than not at all

Buckle up before starting your vehicle

Program all navigation devices before getting on the road

Take a break or switch drivers if feeling tired

NEVER get a behind the wheel after drinking or taking medication that will impair your ability to operate a vehicle.

For more information about the Governor's Office of Highway Safety or Georgia Department of Agriculture, visit [www.gahighwaysafety.org](http://www.gahighwaysafety.org) or [www.georgiagrown.com](http://www.georgiagrown.com). Follow the Governor's Office of Highway Safety on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram for the latest highway safety information.



## The 4 RULES of FIREARM SAFETY

<b>1</b> ALWAYS TREAT EVERY FIREARM AS THOUGH IT IS LOADED.	<b>2</b> NEVER LET THE MUZZLE COVER ANYTHING YOU'RE NOT WILLING TO DESTROY.
<b>3</b> KEEP YOUR FINGER OFF THE TRIGGER UNTIL YOUR SIGHTS ARE ON THE TARGET.	<b>4</b> BE SURE OF YOUR TARGET AND WHAT IS BEYOND IT.

## Always follow these four firearms safety rules

With only a small percentage of participants ever involved in an incident, hunting repeatedly shows itself as a safe sport. Even with this minor chance for issues, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' Wildlife Resources Division (WRD) still encourages hunters to review the 'Four Primary Rules of Firearms Safety' before heading to the woods.

Out of an estimated 642,000 hunters afield, Georgia reported only 36 hunting incidents. Over half of all incidents (20) were tree stand use related.

The following firearms safety checklist, comprised of only four items, is covered in all hunter education courses and easily can be remembered with the acronym ACTT:

- A - Always treat every firearm as if it were loaded.
- C - Control the muzzle of the firearm at all times.
- T - Be certain of the Target and what is in front of it and beyond it.
- T - Keep your finger outside of the Trigger guard until you are ready to shoot.

For more information on hunting safety visit <https://georgiawildlife.com/hunting/huntereducation> or contact the Wildlife Resources Division Hunter Education office at 706-557-3355.



### WHY DO 9-1-1 PROFESSIONALS ASK SO MANY QUESTIONS???

Emergency dispatchers need to get accurate information to allow officers and other emergency personnel to make the best decision on how to approach the situation. Dispatchers taking your call must also consider the well-being of the public and the safety of the responding emergency personnel.

The information you provide a dispatcher is relayed to responding officers, paramedics or firefighters while they are on their way to the call. This allows them to help make educated decisions about how they respond to the call and what equipment they take with them.

**If I call 911, what will they ask me?**

**WHERE is the location of the emergency?**  
The location of your emergency is the most important piece of information that you can provide. This is the address where the emergency is actually happening.

**WHAT is the emergency or incident type?**  
Tell us exactly what happened. Be as concise as possible. Tell us what the problem is NOW, not what led up to the problem. Allow the dispatcher to ask questions. Please talk to the dispatcher, and not the people around you.

**The 911 dispatcher will also ask WHEN did this incident take place, WHO is involved, and if there are any WEAPONS**



**Medical emergencies**

The 9-1-1 call is answered Seminole County. The dispatcher in will ask for patient information and dispatch an ambulance to your location. The caller may be transferred to Grady Ambulance dispatch center, where they will verify the address and provide pre-arrival instructions if needed.



**Wireless phones and calling 9-1-1**

Across the nation, over 75% of the calls made 9-1-1 come from wireless phones, which present unique challenges. A large number of those calls are accidental calls or "pocket dials", or children playing with the phone. Even phones with no active service can still dial 9-1-1 as long as the battery is charged. These accidental calls are tying up emergency lines and personnel, and may interfere with actual emergency calls being answered.



**9-1-1 and location accuracy**

When a 9-1-1 call is made from a wireless phone, the location of the caller may or may not be displayed on the maps in the dispatch center. Be prepared to provide your location.



**Can responders locate you?**

You have called 9-1-1, and emergency personnel have been dispatched. But, can you be located? Please make sure your address number is properly displayed. The numbers should be at least 3 inches tall and reflective.



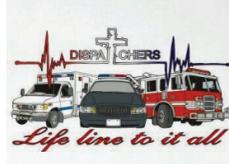
**Code Red Alerts**

Visit our website at [www.seminoleso.com](http://www.seminoleso.com) to sign up for CODE RED alerts. If you do not have internet access, please call our office at 229-524-5115 and someone will assist you.



**Text-to-911**

Seminole County 9-1-1 can receive text messages reporting emergencies. Please remember, it is always better to call if you can.



*Life line to it all*

This message is brought to you by Sheriff Heath Elliott and his staff of Emergency Communication Officers.

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