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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Statewide Click It Or Ticket enforcement begins **SEAT BELTS PROTECT YOU FROM SCARY THINGS**

While standard zombie apocalypse survival kits may contain food, water and first aid supplies, state traffic safety officials are encouraging motorists to remember another lifesaving item: the seat belt.

This Halloween, local police departments, sheriff offices and Michigan State Police posts in 26 counties will conduct federally funded seat belt enforcement zones as part of the *Click It Or Ticket* campaign today through Nov. 9.

“Seat belts are your best and primary defense in the event of a crash, zombie-related or not,” said Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHSP) director Michael L. Prince. “Michigan law enforcement will be out strictly enforcing the state’s seat belt law over the next couple of weeks.”

A new Halloween-related campaign by OHSP highlights the stepped-up enforcement and reminds motorists seat belts can save motorists from a zombie attack. Of the 13 fatalities on Oct. 31 and Nov. 1, 2013, four were not wearing a seat belt and four were pedestrians.

The zombie-thwarting properties of a seat belt are featured in the video available at Youtube.com/ohsp. No actual living dead were harmed in the making of this commercial.

Law enforcement officers from more than 140 agencies in Allegan, Berrien, Calhoun, Chippewa, Delta, Eaton, Genesee, Grand Traverse, Houghton, Ingham, Jackson, Kalamazoo, Kent, Livingston, Macomb, Marquette, Monroe, Muskegon, Oakland, Ottawa, Saginaw, St. Clair, Van Buren, Washtenaw, Wayne and Wexford counties are participating in the *Click It Or Ticket* campaign.

The campaign and seat belt enforcement zones are paid for with federal traffic safety funds coordinated by OHSP.

Michigan law requires drivers and front seat passengers to be buckled up as well as passengers 15 and younger in any seating position. Children must be in a car seat or booster seat until they are 8 years old or 4 feet 9 inches tall.

The *Click It Or Ticket* campaign is part of Michigan’s Strategic Highway Safety Plan signed by Gov. Rick Snyder in 2013.

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