Andy Beshear
GOVERNOR

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
TRANSPORTATION CABINET
transportation.ky.gov

Rebecca Goodman
SECRETARY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contacts: Marla Marrs
502.352-5963
Marla.Marrs@ky.gov

Team Kentucky Urges Safe Driving Ahead of Thanksgiving

Drivers reminded to buckle up, put the phone down

FRANKFORT, Ky. (Nov. 23, 2026) – As Kentuckians travel to celebrate Thanksgiving with family and friends, Team Kentucky reminds motorists and passengers to make safety a priority by buckling up, putting their phones down and driving sober to help protect everyone on the road.

"When you're in a vehicle, your seat belt is your first line of defense in the event of a crash," said KYTC Secretary Rebecca Goodman. "Buckling up, making sure all your passengers are buckled up and putting your phone down while driving can save lives by giving everyone on the road the best chance of getting home safely."

Over the last 10 years, distracted driving has become one of the leading causes of vehicle crashes on our nation's roads. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), any activity that pulls a driver's eyes off the road, hands off the wheel, or attention away from the task of driving creates a serious safety hazard. Texting while driving is particularly dangerous, as it combines all three types of distraction at once: visual, manual and cognitive. Even a momentary lapse in attention can significantly increase the risk of a crash.

According to the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet's (KYTC) Office of Highway Safety (KOHS), each year in Kentucky, distracted driving results in more than 45,000 crashes, more than 11,000 injuries and more than 150 deaths.

According to NHTSA, when worn correctly, seat belts reduce the risk of death by 45% for front-seat vehicle occupants and 60% for pickup truck, SUV and minivan occupants. Properly fastened seat belts contact the strongest parts of the body, such as the chest, hips and shoulders. A seat belt spreads the force of a crash over a wide area of the body, putting less stress on any one part.

KOHS data shows that nearly half of those killed in motor vehicles each year in Kentucky are not wearing a seat belt. Properly fastened seat belts help protect drivers and passengers by spreading crash forces across the strongest parts of the body.

For more information, please visit https://bupdky.com/.

###

