
VSP AND NASCAR WC DRIVER ELLIOTT SADLER TEAM UP TO SAVE LIVES

Winston Cup Driver Elliott Sadler has joined with the Virginia State Police to urge motorists to buckle up.

At a press conference on May 2 at Richmond International Raceway, a poster of Sadler with Virginia State Police Sgt. Dan Jessee and Trooper Mike Keen was unveiled. The free poster will be distributed throughout the state to encourage motorists to wear their seat belts.

Sadler, who currently drives for the Wood Brothers racing team of Stuart, Va., began driving the #21 CITGO Ford in 1999. He made his first two Winston Cup starts in 1998 and became the 26th driver to earn \$1 million in his career the same year. His first NASCAR Winston Cup victory was in the Food City 500 at Bristol in March 2001. In 2002, he placed second in the Daytona 500.

The 27-year-old native of Emporia, Va., said NASCAR drivers know the importance of wearing their seatbelts both on the track and on the highway.

The idea for the safety poster came from Trooper Andrew O'Conner of Sixth Division in Salem. When contacted about appearing on a poster with the State Police, Sadler said he was hon-



Governor Mark Warner gives his support to the Buckle Up for Safety poster program sponsored by the Virginia State Police and NASCAR Driver Elliott Sadler.

ored to be part of a project to encourage seat belt usage, especially among young males.

The Department issued 52,872 safety belt summonses in 2000, 44,872 in 2001 and 8,660 as of May 2002. There were 8,917 child safety seat summonses issued in 2000, 7,282 in 2001 and 1,438 as of May 2002.

At the press conference, Col. W. Gerald Massengill said the Department's goal for 2002 is a usage rate of 77 percent, compared to 72.3 percent for 2001 and 68 percent for 2000.

Virginia Gov. Mark Warner praised the efforts of both the Department and Elliott Sadler for getting motorists to buckle up. □



The combination of NASCAR and the Virginia State Police attracted area media to the press conference, which was held at Richmond International Raceway before the Pontiac Excitement race on May 4.

Elliott Sadler, Sgt. Dan Jessee and Trooper Mike Keen unveiled the safety poster they posed for to promote seat belt safety across the Commonwealth.

