

Seatbelts – Why Do They Matter?



The Facts

Seat belt use in passenger vehicles saved an estimated 14,955 lives in 2017.

Buckling up is the single most effective thing you can do to protect yourself in a crash.

The driver, each front-seat occupant in the vehicle, and all children less than 18 years of age **must** wear occupant protection systems.

Over the past 10 years, about 70% of vehicle fatalities were unbuckled.

Seemingly routine trips can be deceptively dangerous. Most fatal crashes happen within 25 miles from home and at speeds of less than 40 mph.

Air bags are not enough to protect you; in fact, the force of an air bag can seriously injure or even kill you if you're not buckled up.

Using a seatbelt in a rollover crash increases the chance of saving your life by 70%. (NHTSA)

Every passenger in every seat needs to be buckled. Unbuckled rear passengers can injure or kill front seat passenger. Drivers are about twice as likely to be fatally injured in crashes in which the left rear passenger was unrestrained compared with crashes in which the passenger was belted.

If you believe the myth that seatbelts can trap you in a fire or underwater - incidents involving fire or water account for less than 1% of all crashes. But more importantly, you can't escape such dangers unless you're conscious. Wearing a seat belt gives you a much greater chance of being conscious and able-bodied.

Seat belts prevent drivers and passengers from being ejected. Those not wearing a seatbelt are 30 times more likely to be ejected during a crash (CDC).

What can you do?

First and foremost; buckle up. Your best way to be a role model for your family and community, and to protect yourself, is by wearing your seat belt every time you're in a vehicle.

Don't start driving until all passengers are buckled.

Make sure children are in the right seat and properly buckled.