

TOOL BOX TALKS

Seat Belts

Roughly 50,000 people die on American highways each year. In Missouri roughly 1,000 people die in traffic crashes each year. How many of these lives could have been saved just by wearing seat belts? What's odd is that seat belts are free, come automatically installed in cars, and are proven to save lives. But people still don't wear them. Remember that the DRIVER is the most important safety device in the vehicle! We must make the decision to wear the safety belt, slow down and drive appropriately for the conditions at hand!

WORKSAFE TIPS

SEAT BELTS ARE IMPORTANT!

In 2006, one person was killed or injured in a traffic crash every 8.3 minutes in the State of Missouri.

A driver in a 2006 Missouri traffic crash had a 1 in 31 chance of being killed if they were not wearing a seat belt.

Stats show that 3 of every 4 people killed in auto accidents are thrown from the vehicle!

Seat belts increase crash survivability rates by more than 50%.

PROTECTION FROM CRASH FORCES

Seat belts protect you by absorbing the forces of the crash.

Seat belts keep you in the seat, and prevent you from being ejected from the vehicle at high speeds.

Seat belts prevent you from contacting the steering wheel, dash or windshield during a crash.

SAFETY BELTS HELP YOU KEEP CONTROL

Seat belts help you stay in the seat and in control of your vehicle during a crash.

REQUIRE THAT EVERYONE RIDING IN OR DRIVING COMPANY VEHICLES UTILIZE THEIR SAFETY BELT!

THE THREE CRASHES

WHEN A VEHICLE CRASH OCCURS, OCCUPANTS' BODIES CRASH THREE TIMES!

THE CAR CRASH

- Sudden stop of hitting something like another vehicle or a tree.
- Occurs in less than 1/10 of a second.
- Occupants inside the vehicle will still be moving in the direction of the crash.

YOU CRASH

The vehicle stops, but the occupants still keep moving in the same direction as the vehicle.

Unbelted occupants are thrown about inside the vehicle, striking the steering wheel, dash, windshield, and roof and into each other.

In this stage unbelted occupants are ejected. Person-to-person contact also occurs in this stage – you can be severely injured by an unbuckled occupant, even if you are securely belted in!

YOUR ORGANS

When the body comes to a sudden stop, the organs within the chest cavity and skull slam forward into the bony structures of the body.

This can occur when the body hits the steering wheel, dash or windshield, or when ejected. Organs are torn loose, are damaged and can bleed, causing death.

SEAT BELT SAFETY IS A BARGAIN!

- They come in all cars and trucks
- Buyers don't have to pay extra for them
- They're proven to save lives!



These advisory materials have been developed from national standards and sources believed to be reliable, however, no guarantee is made as to the sufficiency of the information contained in the material and Missouri Employers Mutual Insurance Company assumes no liability for its use. Advice about specific situations should be obtained from a safety professional.

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