

SEAT BELTS

The National Safety Council's Injury Facts 2000, reports the following information regarding the use of safety belts:

- ❖ Reduce fatal injury to front seat occupants by 45% and reduce the risk of moderate to critical injury by 50%.
- ❖ Safety belts provide the greatest protection against ejection. In 20088 fatalities 21% of unrestrained passengers were ejected from the vehicle compared to 1% for those who were restrained with a safety belt.
- ❖ Lap and shoulder belts should always be used even in a vehicle equipped with air bags.
- ❖ Seat belts saved an estimated 75,000 lives from 2004 to 2008.

Most vehicles in use today are equipped with safety belts. The problem is that many drivers and passengers fail to use them. Many people have arguments against the use of belts, but little evidence to support their objections.

Let's examine a few of these objections and see what the experts at the National Safety Council have to say about them.

"Safety belts are alright when I have a long way to travel, but on short trips they're a real nuisance."

Buckling and unbuckling a few extra times is a heck of a lot easier than banging your head against the windshield should you have a an accident.



Besides, most motor vehicle accidents happen within 25 miles of home and at speeds below 40 miles per hour.

"If I'm in an accident, I don't want to be trapped in my vehicle during a fire or if it goes into the water."

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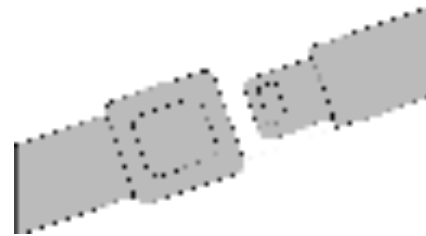
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Chances are that if the crash is severe enough to trap you in the vehicle, you will be trapped even if you aren't wearing a belt. Besides fires occur in only 0.2% and submersion in only 0.3% of all injury producing accidents. Even then your safety belt can increase your chances of escape by keeping you from being knocked unconscious.

"I'm a good driver—never had an accident. Why do I need safety belts?"

Statistics show that four out of five drivers involved in accidents never had one before. In addition to reducing injuries and saving lives in accidents, wearing a seat belt helps you feel in control. Once the safety belt habit is acquired, you will automatically buckle up every time you get into your vehicle.



Seat Belts do save lives.