

TST #135-A

Seatbelts Could Save Your Life

Every 14 seconds, someone in America is injured in a traffic crash or collision. Every 12 minutes, someone is killed in a crash. With statistics like these, it is necessary to do everything possible to help prevent traffic accident injuries and fatalities. One way drivers and passengers can take part is by wearing their seatbelts while operating a vehicle.

There are many reasons both drivers and passengers choose not to wear their seatbelt. Many people have given reasons like:

- “I’m only going a short distance.”
- “I forgot to put it on.”
- “It’s too uncomfortable.”
- “I might get trapped” or “I am safer without it.”

However, it is important to remember a few things that will make drivers and passengers think twice about not “buckling up.”

It’s the Law

Many states require drivers and passengers to wear a seatbelt. If the vehicle being driven is commercial, usually each state’s Department of Transportation requires drivers and passengers to wear seatbelts as well.

It Could Save Your Life

The largest on-the-job exposure to fatality is the travel to and from a jobsite. The Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) has determined that highway accidents cause the largest number of workplace fatalities. Wearing a seatbelt helps to:

- Cut the risk of death by 45 percent for people riding in cars and by more than 60 percent for those traveling in trucks and SUV’s.
- Save lives. Seatbelts save 14,000 lives each year but despite state laws requiring them to be worn, 20 percent of Americans still fail to wear a seatbelt.

When worn properly, seatbelts are a major factor in the prevention of traffic accident injuries and fatalities. “Properly worn” means to situate the seatbelt with both straps snugly fitted to transfer the impact of the collision to the parts of the body that can take it - the hip bones and shoulder bones.

Seatbelts Could Save Your Life Quiz

The following statements should be answered with "True" or "False." Answers below.

1. Every 12 minutes, someone in the U.S. is killed in a crash.
2. A seatbelt is not required if only traveling a short distance.
3. The risk of death from a vehicle crash can be cut by 45 percent if a seatbelt is worn.
4. 14,000 lives are saved every year by wearing seatbelts.
5. Most accidents happen at speeds over 55 MPH.

Employee Name: _____

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Answers:

1. True
2. False
3. True
4. True
5. False