

MAFES Dawg Tracks

August 31, 2015



*Safety Tips:
Seat Belt Use*



Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for people age 5-34. Adult seatbelt use is the common most effective way to save lives and reduce injuries in crashes.

SEAT BELT FACTS-

- Between 2002 & 2008 adult seatbelt use increased 80% to 85%.
- More than 2.3 million adult drivers and passengers were treated in emergency departments for injuries from crashes in 2009.
- In one year alone, deaths and injuries to drivers and passengers cost \$70 billion in medical and lost work days.

FACTORS AFFECTING SEATBELT USE-

- Adults age 18-34 are almost 10% less likely to wear a seatbelt than adults 35 years or older.
- Men are 10% less likely to wear seatbelts than women.
- Adults living in rural areas are 10% less likely to wear seatbelts (78% use) than adults who live in urban and suburban areas (78% use).

In 2009, about 12,000 more injuries would have been prevented and about 450 more lives saved if all states had primary enforcement seatbelt laws.

SEATBELT USE- THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY TO SAVE INJURY & DEATH-

- Seatbelt use reduces serious injuries and deaths in crashes by 50%. Air bags provide extra protection but are no substitute for seatbelts.
- Seatbelt use is higher in those states with primary enforcement laws (88%) than those without enforcement laws (79%).
- In 2009, about 12,000 more injuries would have been prevented and about 450 lives saved (450) if all states had the primary enforcement seatbelt laws.
- In 2010, 19 states - where 1 in 4 adult Americans live - did not have a primary law.
- In 2008, primary seatbelt laws existed in 26 states, 3 territories, and the District of Columbia, covering 65% of the U.S. adult population.

ACTIONS THAT CAN BE TAKEN-

States Can:

- Pass a primary enforcement law.
- Make sure that the seatbelt law will apply to everyone in the car - not just those in the front seat.
- Ensure that fines for non-use are high enough to be effective.
- Make sure that state, county and local law enforcement enforce the seatbelt use.
- Support seat belt laws with visible police presence and awareness campaigns for the public.

Employers Can-

- Post information in the break rooms and parking lots that encourages employees to buckle up.
- Identify the cost of crashes to their workforce in terms of medical care and lost wages.
- Require seatbelt use in company vehicles at all times and in personal vehicles when conducting company business.
- Develop active enforcement programs for staff about seatbelt use when driving company vehicles.

Everyone Can-

- Use a seatbelt on every trip - regardless of the length.
- Make sure everyone in the car is buckled up, including the back seat.

Parents & Caregivers-

- Use a seatbelt on every trip, regardless of the length of the trip.
- Make sure children are buckled up in a seatbelt in their car seat, booster seat, whichever is appropriate.
- Make sure that all children 12 years or younger sit in the back seat.

Seatbelts, when used properly, hold the operator/passengers in the seat and helps contain them inside the rollover protection structure (ROPS) in the event of a crash or rollover. The seat assembly, which includes the seatbelt and mounting hardware, should be inspected regularly. The instruction manual states that a walk-through inspection should be made on a regular basis, with the following items checked:

INSPECT-

- The seatbelt mounting hardware for wear and damage. Replace any mounting hardware parts that are worn or damaged.
- Mounting bolts - tighten mounting bolts if they are loose.
- The buckle - replace the seatbelt if the buckle is worn or damaged. Inspect the belt for wear or damages.
- The seatbelt - if the seatbelt webbing is worn or damaged - replace it.
- The seatbelt label for date of installation. It is recommended to replace the seatbelt every 3 years.

INSPECT (for 3 point seatbelt) (if equipped)-

- Shoulder loop web guide. Adjust shoulder loop hardware and/or remove obstruction.
- The seat belt height adjuster. Replace the seatbelt if the height adjuster isn't working.

REMEMBER!

As you note, this article is aimed at general seatbelt use, but we encourage the use of seatbelts in all farm and recreational vehicles, tractors, UTVs, etc. A redundant note - farm vehicles, when you use the seatbelt with ROPS, you have a 99% chance of escaping death.

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Excerpts: <http://www.cdc.gov/atlantis/seatbeltuse/index.htm>
<http://safety.cat.com>

**IGNORING A WARNING CAN CAUSE
YOU MUCH MOURNING!**

SAVE TOMORROW <><><>

THINK SAFETY TODAY