

MSU-ES Dawg Tracks

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Safety Tips: *Strap Up or Check Out!*



Instead of car crashes we should say car-human crashes! In an accident, people tend to forget about the second part of an accident—the one that can kill you.

It can happen in a fraction of a second after the car stops moving. For example, the car stops, but the occupants can continue moving. For example, the vehicle might be traveling at 60 mph; in an accident the car has an abrupt stop, but the occupant or occupant moves until they hit the dash board, steering wheel, door post or another occupant.

Or a seatbelt!

In North America and Europe, seatbelts have been required for years; but people, by the thousands, die every week because they aren't wearing them, or they aren't "buckled up for safety."

Motor vehicle accidents are the number one cause of on and off the job fatalities.

Excuses for not wearing seatbelts on or off the job aren't very original.

"It's better to jump clear." Aside from the problem of leaping from the vehicle early and fast enough to get away, "jumping clear" deprives you of the protection of the cab and chassis, which are designed to help save your life.

"I'm not going far." Most accidents happen within two miles of home.

"I've got an airbag." Airbags are designed to assist the seatbelt in bringing you to a halt before you hit something hard. If you aren't belted in, you just hit the bag at full speed - and then whatever's behind it.

By not wearing a seatbelt, it compares to the choice of jumping off of a building because the stairs are too far to walk to.

Following are some tips that will help to keep you, co-workers, families and friends safe if we remain aware of them:

- Refuse to ride in any vehicle without wearing a seatbelt.
- Refuse to start or operate the vehicle, unless all occupants are strapped in. Obviously, if they aren't strapped in and you had an accident, they could become a projectile, hitting anything or anyone in its path.
- Refuse to drive with more passengers than there are seatbelts for.
- We always need to remember that a vehicle isn't just a car. Each year heavy equipment operators are crushed after jumping out of their cabs. Truck drivers are thrown into and through windshields. Sometimes, even pilots are launched against their controls.

Be smart and make conscious choices, save your life, the lives of your fellow workers and friends. Always wear your seatbelt anytime, anyplace, when you are operating a vehicle or any other type of mobile equipment.

***SAFE OPERATORS ARE -
SMOOTH OPERATORS
BE AWARE -- BE ALERT
BE ALIVE!***