

always...

# BUCKLE YOUR SEAT BELT.



**O**ne of the most effective measures a person can take to prevent injury or death in a motor vehicle crash is to be restrained in a seat belt, or for small children, a rear- or forward-facing child safety seat. On average, more than 60 percent of people killed in crashes are not properly restrained.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates seat belts reduce the risk of fatal injury to front-seat passenger car occupants by 45 percent and the risk of moderate to critical injury by 50 percent. For light-truck occupants, seat belts reduce the risk of fatal injury by 60 percent and moderate to critical injury by 65 percent.

Research on the effectiveness of child safety seats has found them to reduce fatal injury by 71 percent for infants (less than 1 year old) and by 54 percent for toddlers (1 to 4 years old) in passenger cars.

## Ohio Law

- Every driver and front seat passenger must wear a seat belt.
- Every child\* under 8 years old must ride in a booster seat or other appropriate child safety seat\*\* unless the child is 4'9" or taller. Every child\* from 8 to 15 years old who is not secured in a car seat must be secured in the vehicle's seat belt.

\* Unless there is a life-threatening situation, the parent has an affidavit signed by a licensed physician exempting the child from the law due to a physical impairment, or the vehicle is a taxicab, a public safety vehicle, is regulated under Ohio Revised Code 5104.011 or was manufactured without seat belts.

\*\* Includes infant seats, convertible seats, forward-facing seats, booster seats and other federally-approved safety devices.

# Proper use is important

**T**he lap belt should go over the hips, not the abdomen, and the shoulder belt should lay on your chest and over your shoulder. The seat belt should be close-fitting. In addition to preventing passengers from being ejected during a crash, seat belts reduce the risk of collision with the steering wheel, dashboard, windshield or other passengers.

Seat belts also help prevent internal injuries by spreading the force of a collision across the body's strongest areas. Never slip the diagonal belt behind your body — the lap belt alone can not prevent you from being thrown forward or out of the vehicle.

For child safety seats and booster seats, follow the seat manufacturer's instructions for height and weight limits and proper use. For information on a child passenger safety program in your area, call 1-866-CAR-SEAT.

## Did you know?

- Every hour someone in America dies in a crash. Crashes are among the leading causes of death in the United States.
- Failure to buckle up is a factor in more crash fatalities than any other traffic safety-related behavior.
- Seat belts provide the greatest protection against ejection in a crash. Three-fourths of people ejected from cars in crashes are killed.
- Three out of four crashes occur within 25 miles of home. Crashes can happen on the way to school, work, the grocery store or even within your own neighborhood.

## A word about air bags

Airbags are called supplemental restraints because they are designed to work best in combination with seat belts. Never put a rear-facing infant restraint in the front seat of a vehicle with a front passenger air bag. Read the vehicle owner's manual for more information. The safest place for ALL children is in the back seat.



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