



- Administration
- Bureau of Motor Vehicles
- Emergency Management Agency
- Emergency Medical Services
- Office of Criminal Justice Services
- Ohio Homeland Security
- Ohio Investigative Unit
- Ohio State Highway Patrol

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Dear Parent:

Through a partnership between the Ohio Department of Public Safety and local law enforcement agencies, third graders around the state are receiving instructions on the importance of safety belts.

The theme of the third Grade Program is “What’s Holding You Back?” Local law enforcement instructors will challenge students to increase their efforts to share the important message of buckling up every time, for every trip.

Today your child learned about the importance of safety belts and air bag safety through demonstrations, discussion, and hands-on activities. Your child was also made a “Safety Belt Deputy” and has pledged to wear his/her safety belt and to remind others to wear theirs as well.

I hope you will reinforce the safety belt lesson your child has learned by insisting that everyone in the vehicle be buckled up. On the reverse side of this letter are some facts that may help you convince others that safety belts work. “Safety belts save lives!”

Sincerely,

Project Coordinator

Mission Statement

“to save lives, reduce injuries and economic loss, to administer Ohio’s motor vehicle laws and to preserve the safety and well being of all citizens with the most cost-effective and service-oriented methods available.”

SAFETY BELT FACTS

Did you know:

1. Most crashes occur at speeds less than 40 miles per hour.
2. Most collisions occur less than 25 miles from home.
3. Safety belts can help prevent secondary collisions by keeping you behind the wheel and in control of the car.
4. Your chances of being killed are 25 times greater if you are thrown out of the car.
5. You cannot brace yourself adequately in a crash. A 100-pound person in a 20-mile per hour crash becomes a 2,000 pounds of force.
6. A child cannot safely be held in a mother's arms. In a 30 mile per hour crash, a 20-pound child becomes a 600-pound moving object.
7. All 50 states have a child safety seat law. Ohio's law requires children who are either or both: less than 40 pounds; less than 4 years, must be secured in a child safety belt.
8. Person not protected by safety belts or seats have been killed at speeds as low as 12 miles per hour-the speed often traveled in a supermarket parking lot.
9. Each of us has a 1 in 3 chance of being in a serious auto accident in our lifetime.
10. A common cause of death and injury to children is being crushed by adults who are not wearing safety belts. In fact, 1 out of 4 serious injuries to passengers are caused by occupants being thrown against each other.
11. Infants in rear facing child safety seats should NEVER ride in the front seat of a vehicle with a passenger-side air bag. Children, ages 12 and under, should also ride buckled up in the back seat.
12. An air bag is not a soft, billowy pillow. Rather, to work effectively an air bag comes out of the dashboard at rates of up to 200 miles per hour - faster than the blink of an eye. Drivers can entirely eliminate any danger to children from a deploying air bag by placing kids properly restrained in the back seat. With or without an air bag, the back seat is the safest place for children to ride.