



## Seat Belt Usage

Monthly Training Topic  
NV Transport Inc.  
Safety & Loss  
Prevention



# Introduction



***There are 2 types of seatbelt laws:***

***Primary enforcement laws allow law enforcement officers to pull over drivers and ticket them if they are not wearing their seatbelts.***

***Secondary enforcement laws, on the other hand, only allow an officer to pull over drivers for a separate violation (speeding, headlight out, etc.) and then ticket them if they are not wearing their seatbelts.***

***Although there are limitations, exceptions, or exemptions, State laws usually require that drivers and passengers wear seat belts when operating or riding in a private passenger motor vehicle.***

***New Hampshire is the only state in the US that does not have a primary or secondary seatbelt law. This only applies to adults. Children in NH are required to wear seat belts.***

***Title 49, Section 392.16 of the Code Of Federal Regulations States: “A commercial motor vehicle that has a seat belt assembly installed at the driver seat shall not be driven unless the driver has properly restrained himself / herself with the seat belt assembly.”***

# Facts & Statistics

***Seatbelts save over 13,000 lives every year.***

***In 2011, it is estimated that nearly 85% of people use a seat belt while operating a motor vehicle. This is almost a 25% increase from 1995.***

- ***88% of drivers and passengers in states with primary laws***
- ***76 % of drivers and passengers in states with secondary laws***

***In 2010, it is estimated that nearly 75% of all Commercial Motor Vehicle operators used a seat belt.***

***Location, Time of day, Type of vehicle, weather conditions, vehicle speed were some factors that played a role in CMV operator seatbelt usage.***

***Truck drivers are among the biggest groups of offenders who do not wear seat belts.***



***Above facts and statistics obtained from the following websites: The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration and Thee National Highway Transportation Safety Administration and the National Safety Council***

# The Importance of Seat Belts

***Safety belts can keep you from being knocked unconscious improving your chances of escape. Commercial Drivers may use the excuse that not wearing a seatbelt will help your chances during a fire or submersion – Reality is, fire or submersion occurs in less than 5% of fatal large truck crashes.***

***In a frontal collision occurring at 30 mph, an unbelted person continues to move forward at 30 mph causing his/her to hit the frontal components of the cab interior at about 30 mph. This is the same velocity a person falling from the top of a three story building would experience upon impact with the ground.***



# The Cost of Not Wearing your Seat Belt

## **Direct Cost**

- **Loss of life**
- **Medical care and disability payments**
- **The loss of special knowledge or skills**
- **Recruiting and replacing personnel**
- **Reassigning and / or re-training employees**
- **Lost business due to absenteeism**
- **Legal Fees**
- **Increase in long-term rates for worker's compensation, property liability, commercial auto, and health insurance.**



## **Indirect Cost**

- **Operational delays and losses resulting from the absence of the injured employee's services**
- **Diminished company reputation**
- **Lost productivity resulting from using less experienced replacements, time taken by other employees to "fill in," or to train replacements**
- **Lowered employee morale**
- **Regulatory and enforcement actions**
- **Inability to attract new employees and retain existing employees.**

## Fact or Fiction

## **Fact** or **Fiction**

***Myth 1: Safety belts are uncomfortable and restrict movement***

***Fact 1: A research study conducted by the Transportation Safety Board discovered that driver's are not wearing seat belts because they believe the belts are uncomfortable and restrictive. Once the seat belts are correctly adjusted, drivers found that the discomfort and restrictive movement was alleviated.***

***Myth 2: Wearing a safety belt is a personal decision that doesn't effect anyone.***

***Fact 2: Not wearing a safety belt can certainly affect your family and loved ones. It can affect other motorists since wearing a safety belt can help you avoid losing control of your vehicle in a crash. It's also the Law; Federal and State regulations require commercial vehicle drivers to buckle up. Safety belts are a driver's last line of defense in a crash.***

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## Fact or Fiction

## **Fact** or **Fiction**

***Myth 3: Safety belts prevent you from escaping***

***Fact 3: As mentioned previously, Safety belts can keep you from being knocked unconscious improving your chances of escape. Fire or submersion occurs in less than 5% of fatal large truck crashes.***

***Myth 4: It is better to be thrown clear of the wreckage in the event of a crash***

***Fact 4: An occupant of a vehicle is four times as likely to be fatally injured when thrown from the vehicle.***

***Myth 5: It takes too much time to fasten your safety belt 20 times a day***

***Fact 5: Buckling up takes about three seconds. Even buckling up 20 times a day requires only one minute.***

***Myth 6: Safety belts aren't necessary for low-speed driving***

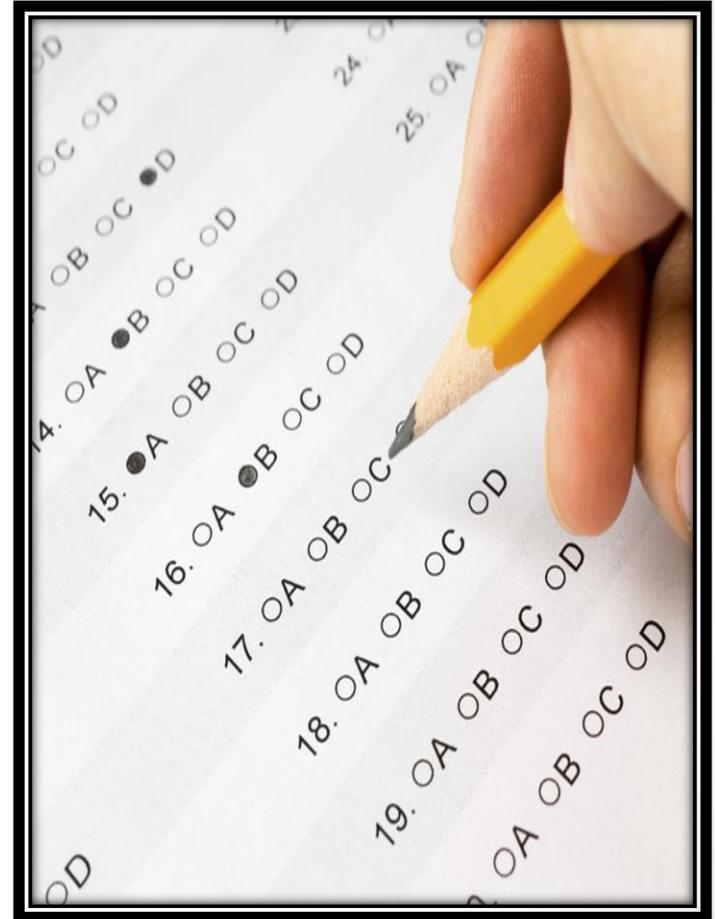
***Fact 6: In a frontal collision occurring at 30 mph, an unbelted person continues to move forward at 30 mph causing him/her to hit frontal interior components (such as the steering wheel, instrument panel, or windshield) at about 30 mph.***

# Quiz

1. **True or False?** *There are two types of seatbelt laws; primary laws and secondary laws.*
2. **True or False?** *Only 25 states have seatbelt laws*
3. **True or False?** *It is a Federal regulation for Commercial Motor Vehicle Operators to wear a seatbelt*
4. **True or False?** *Time of day, vehicle speed and type of vehicle play a role in whether or not a driver will use his/her seatbelt.*
5. **Which group of people are the largest seatbelt offenders?**
  - A. *Police Officers*
  - B. *Truck Drivers*
  - C. *Drivers under the age of 21*
  - D. *Male drivers*

# Quiz Answers

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



# Question or Comments?



# Additional Information on Rules and Regulations

*This document is intended to be a guide on applicable rules and regulations. Although it may be used as a guide/reference for your training needs, this document is not intended to be used as the standard for FMCSA rules and regulations.*

***Additional information can be found on the FMCSA website.***

*The FMCSA website will contain the most accurate and up-to-date information on any and all applicable rules and regulations.*

<http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov>

