

Loss Control Insights

THERE ARE NO EXCUSES

Car crashes are miss-named, a proper name would be "car-and-human crash". But people forget the second collision—the one that can cause serious injury or may even kill you. It happens in the fraction of a second after the car stops moving. The people inside the car are still moving, for example, at 60 mph and they keep going until they're stopped; by the dashboard, by a door pillar, by another passenger... or by a **seat belt**.

In North America and Europe seat belts have been required equipment for decades, but people die in the thousands every week because they aren't wearing them. Motor vehicle accidents are the number-one cause of on-and-off-the-job fatalities.

Excuses for not wearing seat belts on-or-off-the-job aren't very original and have no validity.

- *"It's better to jump clear."* Aside from the problem of leaping from a vehicle early and fast enough to get away, "jumping clear" deprives you of the protection of a cab and chassis designed to save your life.
- *"I'm not going far"*. Most car accidents happen within two mile of home.
- *"I've got an airbag"*. Airbags are designed to assist the seat belt 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.

To keep yourself, your co-workers, family and friends safe, do this:

- Refuse to ride in a vehicle without wearing a seatbelt.
- Refuse to move unless riders in your vehicle are strapped in. They could become projectiles hurtling straight at you.
- Refuse to carry more passengers than you have belts for.

Not wearing a seatbelt is like choosing to jump off a building because the stairs are too far away. And remember, a vehicle isn't just a car. Each year heavy equipment operators are crushed after jumping from their cabs. Truck drivers are thrown through their windshields, Make a smart, conscious choice to save your life, and the lives of your coworkers, family, and friends. Wear your seat belt, every trip and every time you operate a vehicle or any other mobile equipment. As always ~ be safe!