



## TOOLBOX TALK 46/60

DATE:

TOPIC: VEHICLE SAFETY BELTS

OBJECTIVE: BUCKLE UP AND LIVE

### Some things to know before you give your talk:

As a supervisor, you should know that safety belts are:

- 45% effective in preventing fatalities
- 50% effective in preventing moderate to critical injuries
- 10% effective in preventing minor injuries

Yet, despite laws and statistics, the passenger cars safety belt use rate is just short of 50%! In trucks, it is much lower. These are some often-heard reasons why people don't wear their belts:

- "It's just a short trip." (More than 70% of the accidents occur within a few kilometers of home)
- "I don't drive fast." (Over 80% of collisions occur at speeds less than 60 km/hr)
- "It's safer to be thrown clear." (Thrown out, your chances of being killed are 25 times greater than if you remain inside the vehicle, belted.)
- "I'll be trapped and burn or drown." (Less than 1/2 of 1% of accidents involve fire or submersion in water. Besides, your chances of getting out of a vehicle under either circumstance are greatly increased if you are conscious. Held in place by a belt increases your chances of remaining conscious.)
- Remind your crew that sometimes it is the other driver that causes an accident. Your drivers may have the best driving skills in the world but they won't do you much good if they are not in the driver's seat, behind the wheel.
- Safety belts help to hold you in the seat, behind the wheel where you can use your driving skills to control the vehicle. This can mean the difference between a minor accident and a major one.
- Wearing a safety belt must become a habit.

### Try this for show and tell!

If your workers use company vehicles, arrange to inspect the condition of the seat belts in them.

### Questions you can use to get them talking:

- What kinds of things can we do to remind ourselves to wear our seat belts?
- Has anyone ever had an accident – or know of one – involving not wearing a seat belt?
- Who can tell us about someone whose injuries were less serious or had their life saved by wearing a seat belt?