

## FORKLIFTS AND SEATBELTS

**“I get on and off that forklift all day. It’s too much trouble to wear that seatbelt.”**

Have you ever heard anyone say this? Have you said it yourself? Those seatbelts are there for a reason.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics maintains a database entitled, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI). The CFOI is a compilation of information on fatal work injuries that occurred in the 50 States and the District of Columbia. The CFOI uses death certificates, workers compensation reports and other Federal and State records to gather pertinent information.

In one year, 170 workers DIED in forklift accidents. Of these, 41 (24%) were killed when their forklift overturned.

24 (14%) were killed when they FELL from their forklift.

So—a total of 38% were KILLED because THEY DID NOT WEAR THEIR SEATBELT!

These workers would be alive today had they worn their seatbelts. Maybe some of them thought putting that seatbelt on every time they got on was too much trouble. One way to make sure operators are wearing their seatbelts every time is to install a kill switch on the seatbelt itself. These belts must be fastened in order for the equipment to start.



Ask your forklift dealer for more information about these life-saving devices. If installed, there is a way to cheat. Talk about it. Don’t allow it. If you see someone sitting on their seatbelt, walk them out. Don’t let them become the next statistic.

This e-mail was produced by the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, Inc. For more information, visit us on the Web at [www.ISRI.org](http://www.ISRI.org)  
For comments or suggestions about *For Your Safety*, e-mail [joebateman@isri.org](mailto:joebateman@isri.org)

August 17, 2010