



Seven Myths about Seatbelts for Truck Drivers

Here are some interesting statistics provided by the U.S. Department of Transportation; in 2004, 634 drivers of large trucks died in crashes and 303 of those drivers were not wearing seatbelts. Of the 168 drivers killed who were ejected from their vehicles, almost 75% were not wearing seatbelts. 51% of truck-occupant fatalities in large trucks involve a rollover. Truck rollovers increase the likelihood of a fatality by 30 times. In a rollover a truck driver is 80% less likely to die when wearing a seatbelt. Despite these overwhelming statistics, many drivers believe in the following seatbelt myths:

Myth 1: It's better to be thrown clear of the wreckage in the event of a crash.

Fact 1: An occupant of a vehicle is four times more likely to be fatally injured when thrown from a vehicle.

Myth 2: Wearing a seatbelt is a personal decision that doesn't affect anyone else.

Fact 2: It can affect other motorists since wearing a seatbelt can help you to avoid losing control of your vehicle.

Myth 3: It takes too much time to fasten your seatbelt 20 times a day.

Fact 3: Buckling up takes about 3 seconds. Even buckling up 20 times a day requires only one minute.

Myth 4: A large truck will protect you. Seatbelts are unnecessary.

Fact 4: Wearing a seatbelt prevents injuries and fatalities by preventing ejection.

Myth 5: Seatbelts prevent escape from a burning or submerged vehicle.

Fact 5: Seatbelts can keep you from being knocked unconscious, improving your chances of escape. Fire or submersion occurs in less than 5% of fatal truck crashes.

Myth 6: A lap belt offers sufficient protection.

Fact 6: In a frontal collision occurring at 30 mph, an unbelted person continues to move forward at 30 mph causing the occupant to hit the steering wheel, and dashboard at 30 mph.

Myth 7: Good drivers don't need to wear seatbelts.

Fact 7: Good drivers usually don't cause collisions, but it's possible that during your career you will be involved in a crash caused by a bad driver, bad weather, or a mechanical defect.

Remember Accidents do not Happen they are Caused!

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