Buckle Up Kentucky

In 2001, Kentucky traffic crashes were responsible for 850 fatalities and over 50,000 injuries. Many of these deaths and injuries could have been prevented if the victims had been properly restrained.

In an effort to save lives and reduce traffic-related deaths and injuries on our roadways this year, the Governor's Coalition for Highway Safety has launched ***Buckle Up Kentucky*** in conjunction with the national Operation America Buckles Up Children Mobilization. Through this initiative, state, county and municipal law enforcement agencies will patrol and conduct traffic safety checkpoints in high crash locations to enforce Kentucky's traffic laws with special emphasis on occupant protection. There will be ZERO TOLERANCE for those who fail to restrain their child passengers.

If you are among those Kentuckians who don't regularly buckle up yourself or children, just remember, do it for those you love.

Kentucky is serious. We're going to save lives.

Did You Know?

- This year in America, approximately 8,000 adults and children will die in crashes because they failed to buckle their seat belts.
- Traffic-related injuries are the leading cause of all injury death in America.
- Every hour someone dies in America simply because they didn't take the time to buckle up.
- Traffic-related injuries are the leading cause of death for children and young adults ages six to twenty-seven.
- Wearing seat belts is the most effective means of reducing fatalities and serious injuries in traffic crashes.
- Motor vehicle crashes cost society $150.5 billion every year, including $17 billion in health care costs.
- If Kentucky's present seat belt usage rate increased by 10%, an estimated 57 lives would be saved and 1,086 serious injuries prevented. This represents an economic savings of nearly $80 million to the Commonwealth.
- Buckling up is required by Kentucky law.

For more information or comments, please contact the Kentucky Governor's Highway Safety Program at (502) 564-6700.

Seat Belt Guide

HOW TO WEAR A SEAT BELT

In addition to the law, safety experts recommend the following guidelines to keep motorists as safe as possible:

ADULTS

- Wear lap belt low and snug.
- Wear shoulder belt snug across chest.
- Keep back of vehicle seat in upright position.

CHILDREN

- Remain in child seat until weight reaches 40 lbs.
- Best to use approved booster seat after child reaches 40 lbs. and until the seat belt fits properly.
- Use shoulder and lap belts whenever possible provided shoulder belt crosses collar bone, not face or throat.
- Don't allow child to sit on a pillow.
- If lap/shoulder belt is not available, lap only belt should be worn as low and snug as possible.

PREGNANT WOMEN

- Wear lap belt *below* abdomen.
- Wear shoulder belt across chest.
- If your seat belt is too short, consult auto dealer for seat belt extender.

CAUTION! SEAT BELTS SHOULD NEVER BE:

- Under arm
- Across throat
- Loose
- Over face