

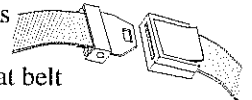
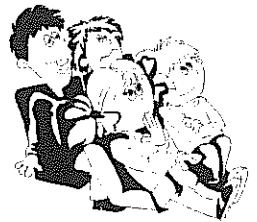
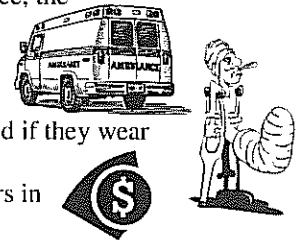
Job Name: _____ Job Site Location: _____

Date: _____ Start Time: _____ Finish Time: _____ Foreman/Supervisor: _____

Topic 401: Seat Belt Use

Introduction: Accidents involving vehicles continue to be the number one cause of on the job fatalities year after year. One out of every five drivers will be involved in a vehicle accident this year. The number of vehicle accidents continues to climb yearly as the number of drivers goes up. However, for the last few years the percentage of fatalities for the number of accidents has seen a slight decline. The generally accepted explanation for the declining number of fatalities versus escalating number of crashes is the increased use of seat belts. Following are statistics which, hopefully, will convince those of us who still view seat belts as an inconvenience, the wisdom of buckling up:

- **Motor vehicle crashes** are the leading cause of death among people 44 and younger and the number one cause of head and spinal cord injury in all ages.
- **Approximately 35,000 people** die in motor vehicle crashes each year. About 50% (17,000) could be saved if they wear their seat belts.
- **For every one percent** increase in seat belt use, 172 lives could be saved and close to \$100 million dollars in annual injury and death costs could be saved.
- **Safety belts**, when used properly, reduce the number of serious traffic injuries by 50%, and the number of fatalities by 60-70%.
- **Safety belt use** is one of the best defenses against the unpredictable actions of a drunk driver.
- **Motorists are 25 times** more likely to be killed or seriously injured when "thrown clear" than when they remain in the vehicle.
- **In a 30 mph. collision**, an unbelted 160lb. person can strike another passenger, the windshield, or the dashboard with 4,800lbs of force.
- **Safety belts should** be used when traveling any distance at any speed. 70% of crash deaths and injuries occur within 25 miles of home, and over 50% of injuries occur at speeds less than 40 mph.
- **A common cause of death** and injury to children in vehicle crashes is being crushed by adults who are not wearing their seat belts. One out of four serious injuries to passengers is from being thrown into each other.
- **Of every 100 children** who die in car crashes 80 would survive if they were properly secured in an approved child safety seat or seat belts.
- **About 80%** of all injuries to children in vehicle crashes are injuries to the head causing brain damage, disfigurement, epilepsy, or death. Most of these injuries could be prevented with the proper use of seat belts and child safety seats.
- **Three out of four** families with child safety seats fail to use them properly. Adults must follow manufacturer's instructions precisely to ensure the safety of their children.
- **Over twenty five countries** around the world have some type of mandatory seat belt law. Results show that seat belt usage went from 20-25 percent before passage of the law to 60-90 percent after passage.



NOTE: Federal OSHA standards state that any vehicle with a roll over protective structure (ROPS) must be equipped with seat belts for any operator or passenger in the vehicle. Furthermore, any vehicle which may be operated on a public thoroughfare is required under federal law to be equipped with seat belts by the manufacturer. OSHA is viewing the requirement to wear the seat belt under the General Provisions for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) as a restraining device, and all PPE "shall be provided, used, and maintained in a sanitary and reliable condition" Therefore OSHA can issue a citation to employers for an employee's failure to wear seatbelts.

Conclusion: Regardless of laws or regulations, the above information, as well as common sense should tell us that seat belts are a vital piece of safety equipment. It is a needless and unlawful risk to operate a motor vehicle of any type without the protection of a properly fastened seat belt. Responsible employees can increase the usage of seat belts by example and verbal reminders - nine out of ten people buckle up when asked.

Work Site Review

Work-Site Hazards and Safety Suggestions: _____

Personnel Safety Violations: _____

Employee Signatures:

(My signature attests and verifies my understanding of and agreement to comply with, all company safety policies and regulations, and that I have not suffered, experienced, or sustained any recent job-related injury or illness.)

City of San Angelo Foreman/Supervisor's Signature: _____

These guidelines do not supercede local, state, or federal regulations and must not be construed as a substitute for, or legal interpretation of, any OSHA regulations.