

DRIVE EMPLOYEES...

**TO A COMPANY-WIDE TRAFFIC SAFETY POLICY:
ALWAYS USE A SAFETY BELT**



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT SAFETY BELTS (AND HOW TO ANSWER THEM)

Safety belt use has steadily increased in Texas. During 2001, only about 76 percent of Texans buckled up. Now, nearly 93 percent of Texans are safely secured, thanks in part to public education campaigns sponsored by groups like the National Safety Council and the Texas Department of Transportation.

Requiring employees to buckle up as a condition of employment will likely prompt questions from employees. Below are some questions you might get asked, along with responses.

1. WHY SHOULD I WEAR A SAFETY BELT?

Wearing a safety belt protects you in a crash by significantly reducing the chance of getting hurt or killed.

HERE'S WHAT HAPPENS IN A CRASH—WHAT IS KNOWN AS THE “CRASH WITHIN THE CRASH.”

- First, your car hits an object (like another car) and immediately stops. The faster the car is traveling, the greater the impact.
- Then your body hits a part of the vehicle inside. If you're belted, you'll bump against the safety belts with minimal impact. But if you're unbelted, your body will keep going and slam into the steering wheel, windshield or even into other passengers.
- Then, after your body stops moving, your internal organs can slam against your other organs and bones and cause internal damage. The seat belts keep you from moving too much, keep your organs in place and keep you safe inside the vehicle.

2. ISN'T IT WORSE TO BE TRAPPED INSIDE THE CAR? AREN'T I SAFER IF I GET THROWN FROM THE VEHICLE IN A CRASH?

No. Safety experts say wearing safety belts increases your odds of survival by 50 percent—or up to 80 percent if you're driving a pickup truck and it rolls over. Pickups are more than twice as likely as a passenger vehicle to roll over in crash, and a safety belt is your best protection if that happens.

3. WHY ARE YOU FORCING ME TO WEAR A SAFETY BELT? SHOULDN'T THAT BE MY OWN DECISION TO MAKE?

State law requires drivers and all passengers to be secured by a safety belt no matter where they're seated in a vehicle. If you're transporting children younger than eight years old and less than four feet nine inches tall, they must be properly buckled up in a child safety seat. Children are always safer riding secured in the back seat. Our company cares about your well-being—on and off the job. That's why we are insisting that you obey the law, whether you are at work or not, because it's not only the right thing to do, but also because it can keep you safer.



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The National Safety Council saves lives by preventing injuries and deaths at work, in homes and communities, and on the roads, through leadership, research, education and advocacy. For more information about safe driving in Texas, please visit the Texas Chapter of the National Safety Council at txdrivingconcern.org/safecompany, call 888-222-4143 or email texas@nsc.org.

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4. WHY ARE YOU CREATING A NEW POLICY IF BUCKLING UP IS THE LAW?

We care about our employees, and we want to do everything we can to protect you. A new safety belt policy is just one more thing we can do to ensure everyone gets the message that wearing safety belts really is the safest way to travel.

5. CAN I AT LEAST WEAR THE SHOULDER BELT BEHIND MY ARM SO MY CLOTHES DON'T GET WRINKLED?

No. Never tuck a shoulder belt behind your arm or behind your back. Wear your shoulder belt over your shoulder and across the center of your chest. Lap belts should fit snugly across your hips, not over your stomach. Never adjust your seat so far back that the shoulder belt doesn't reach you—you could slip out from under it in a crash.



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