



Along for the Ride

JAN 2021

LENGTH 2–5 minutes

TO PREPARE Read the background information.

BACKGROUND

- Discussing the topic of riding—not just driving—in cars, trucks and vans matters to the employer for many reasons. An unbuckled employee is a risk for the employer due to **lost work time, potential injury costs and turnover**. Employers with fleet trucks with back seats have reported overwhelming numbers of employees that do not buckle in the back. The National Highway Transportation Safety Administration survey of 2015 fatal crashes shows that nationally, nearly 1,000 people lost their lives while unrestrained in the rear seat.
- **Unbuckled passengers** in the back seat are **eight times** as likely as **buckled** passengers in the rear seat to be injured or killed in a crash; and yet, 28% of rear-seated passengers do not buckle up in the back seat. (Insurance Institute for Highway Safety)
- In this Safety Huddle, employees will learn about how to ride more safely by wearing a seatbelt and speaking up when the driver is engaging in unsafe driving behaviors.

DISCUSSION

- What situations can you think of that include you riding as a passenger in a vehicle?
 - Some ideas come to mind: share-rides to airports, taxi travel downtown, passenger vans to events or hotels.
 - Other situations might include fleet trucks with rear seating or grabbing lunch with coworkers.
- **Among adults who admit to not buckling their seat belt when in the back seat, four out of five admitted to not buckling up on short trips.**



What are some things to keep in mind when you are planning to hire a share ride?

- Allow for plenty of time to arrive at an event so that the driver isn't pressured to speed or run a stop sign or stop light at an intersection.
- Buckle up (every seat, every time) and remind others to do the same.



TRAFFIC SAFETY Huddle



- Minimize potential distractions for driver.
- Operate the driver's GPS, radio and cell phone when needed and require the driver to stay off cell phone.
- Speak up about obeying speed limits and following rules of the road.



What other safety precautions should the rider be alerted to when accepting a ride?

- Cargo is placed in the trunk or is properly secured
- Licensing of vehicle and driver are valid
- Open recalls on the vehicle
- Tire pressure and updated maintenance
- Working seat belts

OPTIONAL DISCUSSION

NHTSA Tips for Driving a Large Passenger Van

If time allows, discuss passenger van safety using the fact sheet found at this link:

https://www.nhtsa.gov/sites/nhtsa.dot.gov/files/documents/13699_15-passenger_van_factsheet_english_060418_v3a_tag.pdf

SUMMARY

- Helping employees understand that work-related safe driving practices spill over into safe riding practices everywhere else assists you in keeping them safe.
- Being a rider that speaks up and stays aware of safe driving behaviors means buckling up for every ride, every time.
- All vehicles should be maintained and cargo secured to prevent unintentional injuries and deaths.