

SAFETY BLITZ BUCKLED

OR



ALLIANCE INTERSTATE RISK
SERVICE



ATA COMP FUND

BUCKLE UP, BUTTERCUP.

The use of safety belts has been emphasized in school safety campaigns, driver education, & national ads for decades. We should all understand their importance! Despite this, myths about seatbelt usage persist. We aim to debunk these myths during this year's Safety Blitz... and give real-life examples!

MYTH: SEATBELTS ARE UNCOMFORTABLE

BUSTED

- Studies show that only **86%** of professional truck drivers claim to buckle up every time they are in their vehicle.
- Some common complaints are that seatbelts are **uncomfortable** or **restrict movement**. When worn properly, the belt should fit snugly across the lap and chest without restricting movement. Most drivers find that once the seat is adjusted comfortably, the belt fits securely, but not in a confining manner.
- There are **"comfort hacks"** including cushions and extenders, which can enhance comfort and reduce perceived restrictions.

(2023) Driver advised seatbelt was not comfortable. Therefore, driver buckled the seatbelt and sat on top of it with a cushion. The driver ran into the back of another 18-wheeler, hitting the steering wheel with his chest, and causing massive bruising and several broken bones.



MYTH: SIZE MATTERS

BUSTED

- Driving a large Commercial Motor Vehicle does not prevent crashes, nor does it keep injuries from occurring.
- **7 out of 10 truck drivers** killed in crashes were not wearing seatbelts, most because they were ejected from the cab.
- Even if an ejection does not occur, not securing with a safety belt can cause severe injuries due to being tossed about the cab like a **ragdoll**.
- A large truck may not sustain as much damage as a smaller vehicle, but **Newton's first law of motion** (an object at rest will stay at rest and an object in motion will stay in motion unless acted upon by an outside force) doesn't care about the size of the vehicle. It applies regardless. The seatbelt acts as the outside force keeping the driver restrained and prevents them from being thrown forward.

(2024) Driver lost control of CMV and hit three other vehicles. Driver was not wearing a seatbelt and was ejected from the cab of the truck, suffering six broken ribs, a torn rotator cuff, numerous lumbar disc displacements, and blindness.



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