

NATIONAL SAFETY MONTH



JUNE 2020

Signal Administration: Seat Belts Save Lives



On January 1, 1968 Chapter 301 of the Motor Vehicle Safety Standard took effect and required manufacturers to fit seat belts into vehicles, except for buses. Fast forward 36 years, to December 1, 1984—New York was the first state to put into effect a law requiring vehicle occupants to wear seat belts. By 2019 the national seatbelt usage rate was 90.7%. As stated by the NHTSA: *“Of the 37,133 people killed in motor vehicle crashes in 2017, 47% were not wearing seat belts. In 2017 alone, seat belts saved an estimated 14,955 lives and could have saved an additional 2,549 people if they had been wearing seat belts.”* Click [here](#) for more information.

Seatbelts are designed to hold you in place within the vehicle so that the occupant does not fall out of the cage or be ejected from the vehicle during rollover or an accident. We have seen many accidents where the driver has broken through the front and side windows resulting in death or serious injuries.

The proper way to wear a seatbelt is the shoulder strap of the seatbelt should fit snugly across your chest and shoulder, not under your arm, behind your back or across your neck or face. The lap part of the belt should be sitting low and tight across the upper part of the hips. It should never go above the belly.

You can also learn more about seatbelt safety from the Operational Alert found [here](#).



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Sam has over 25 years of experience in Environmental, Health and Safety. He is currently the Assistant Vice President of Safety Resources with Signal Administration based in Long Beach, CA. He has worked in General Industry, Construction, Agriculture, Maritime and Workers Compensations. Sam holds a Bachelor of Science degree from California State University of Los Angeles in Health Science, emphasis on Occupational Health and Safety.

