



CHIZEK TRANSPORT INC. AUGUST Safety Tip

This month we are going to discuss seat belt use. I know a lot of drivers of both trucks and personal vehicles tend to roll their eyes when there is a mention of proper seat belt use. We are here to say they are a serious asset to have in any vehicle. The use of a seat belt has been proven to improve the chances of survival in a catastrophic accident. Look at these actual incidents and statistics listed below.

*Did you know vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death among those aged 1 to 54 in the United States? In fact, not wearing a seat belt increases the chance you'll die in a motor vehicle accident by 2500 percent.

* Did you know that seat belt use by CMV drivers is at roughly 89% of the total number of professional truck drivers.

*Michael Berggren, a 55-year old truck driver, was fatally wounded in a crash while not wearing a safety belt. Involved in a single-vehicle rollover on December 26, 2006, Berggren was ejected from the truck cab, which resulted in the truck rolling over him and crushing his chest. Berggren's employer and spouse indicated that he habitually wore his safety belt.

*On March 17th, 2008, Joseph Karichu of Colony, Texas, was involved in a crash after his truck cab fell nearly 40 feet. Karichu was traveling north on I-380 near Cedar Rapids when he swerved to avoid a car, hit the guardrail, and went up and over the railing, falling 40 feet below. Police noted that because he was wearing his lap and shoulder safety belt, Karichu walked away from the crash.

Seat belts save lives, simple as that. Seat belt use is a large determinant of whether you walk away from an accident or not. Some drivers say they don't like to wear seat belts because they are uncomfortable. Comfort clips on seat belts can be adjusted so you barely feel them when used properly. These comfort clips are designed for any driver.

Remember, if you are in a catastrophic event, you have a far better chance of survival if you are wearing your seat belt. The last thing you want is to be bouncing all over the cab of your truck during an accident. It is best to stay secured in your seat and at the controls rather than all over the cab.

It is a simple and quick way to increase your chances of survival and to display to others your choice to be safe, compliant and courteous at the same time.

Wear you seat belt.