



## Safety Belt Laws Protect Everyone

The law in Oregon requires that everyone wear safety belts properly and that children weighing 40 pounds or less be properly buckled into approved safety seats. Infants must ride in a rear-facing position until they are one year old and weigh more than 20 pounds. Children weighing more than 40 pounds must ride in booster seats that elevate them so that the car's lap and shoulder belts fit correctly – until they are 8 years old or 4'9" tall.

**Proper use means that both portions of a two-belt system must be worn together as illustrated in this brochure, and that only one passenger is restrained per belt or child safety seat.**

## Modifying Your Car's Belt System

For older vehicles that do not have lap and/or shoulder belts, retrofit kits may be available from your auto dealer or manufacturer. People of larger stature who need a longer safety belt should also ask if a safety belt extender is available for their vehicle.

## Who is Responsible?

Oregon law requires that vehicle owners maintain safety belt systems in working order. Drivers are required to properly secure themselves and child passengers under age 16. Passengers 16 and older are responsible for securing themselves.

## Rules for Pickups

Oregon law (ORS 811.205) prohibits minors under age 18 from riding in an open bed of a pickup truck. Exceptions are allowed for hunting and job activities – but ONLY if all passenger seating is occupied by other minors, AND if the minor is seated on the floor of the pickup bed and the tailgate is securely fastened.

## Buckle Up in Every Car, Every Time

No matter the size of the vehicle, the experience of the driver, the distance of the trip or the speed you travel, your safety belt is your best protection against surprises out there on the road. So buckle up every time — and have a safe trip.

**ACTS Oregon Child Safety Seat Resource Center**  
www.childsafetyseat.org  
1-800-772-1315

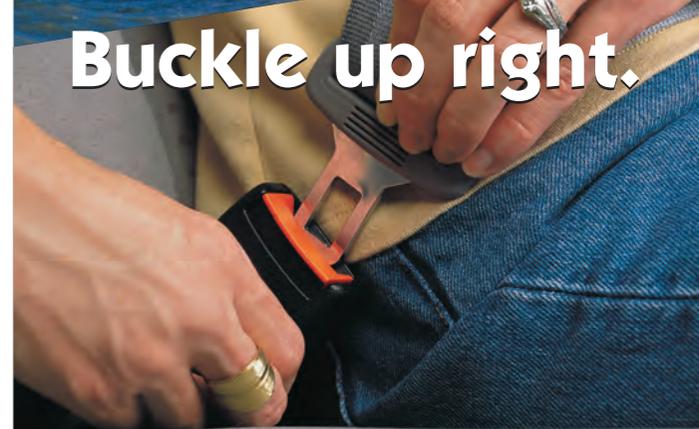
## **Buckle Up. The Way to Go.**

Transportation Safety — ODOT  
www.oregon.gov/ODOT/TS  
1-800-922-2022

# LIFE IS GOOD.



## Buckle up right.



## Why Wear A Safety Belt?

The lifetime odds are one in three that you'll be seriously injured in a crash and one in ten that you could be killed. Traffic collisions are the cause of more fatalities each year than homicides, work-related incidents or airplane crashes. Since Oregon's safety belt law passed in 1990, annual crash fatalities have declined by 56 percent and crash injuries by 42 percent. Widespread safety belt use is considered the primary factor in reducing injuries and saving lives.

## What Safety Belts Do For You

Safety belts distribute the force of a collision to the strongest parts of the body — your hips, shoulders and chest. By decreasing the stopping distance of your body, safety belts keep you in place so that your head, face and chest are less likely to strike the steering wheel, windshield, dashboard or interior frame. They also prevent you and other occupants from being thrown into each other or out of the vehicle.

## Don't Blow It With Airbags

Airbags are designed to work with safety belts, not as a substitute for them. Most airbags inflate only during frontal collisions and protect you very little, if at all, during a side, rear or rollover crash.



## Setting the Record Straight

### Your Posture

Safety belts will not work properly if your seat back is reclined or if you are slouched in your seat. Sit all the way back in the seat with the seat back in an upright but comfortable position.

### Pregnancy and Safety Belts

It is safe and important for pregnant women to wear safety belts. When worn correctly, placed low and under the belly, safety belts protect the mother and unborn baby from the devastating impact of an unrestrained collision.

### Fear of Being Trapped

Car fires or drowning account for only one-tenth of one percent of traffic fatalities. Even in these rare instances, you are more likely to remain conscious and able to get free if you're wearing a safety belt.

### Safety Belts are Important for Short, Long, Slow or Fast Trips

Three out of every four traffic crashes happen within 25 miles of home and at speeds under 40 miles per hour. In fact, fatalities have occurred at speeds as low as five miles per hour — so stay buckled up.

## The Correct Way to Wear a Safety Belt

### WEAR IT LOW

■ The lap portion of the safety belt should be two to four inches below the waist, snug across your hip and pelvic bones — NOT across your stomach.

■ In a crash, a belt worn too high places you at high risk of potentially fatal internal injuries.



### WEAR IT SNUG

■ The shoulder portion should rest smoothly over your collarbone and across your chest and shoulders. Pull the belt out and let it retract to remove slack.

■ Safety belt webbing will stretch slightly in a crash. If not snug before the crash, you may slide under and out or up and over the belt.



### WEAR IT RIGHT

■ If the belt rubs against your neck, try changing the seat position or the way you sit.  
■ Some vehicles have shoulder belt adjusters which you slide up or down to provide a correct, comfortable fit.

Belt extenders may also be purchased.  
■ Some cars feature a shoulder belt that automatically comes across your chest, but you must fasten the lap portion manually to achieve proper use and

compliance with Oregon law.

■ Safety belts should be worn over the front of the shoulder, never behind your back or under your arm.

