

Buckle Up!

It's a wise idea



Here are some important facts that you should know about seat belt safety:

The back seat is the safest seat for kids. Auto accidents are the leading cause of death of children 5 to 15 years of age. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has concluded that kids up to age 12 are safest riding in the back seat.

Full child passenger safety information including where to find Safety Seat Inspection Stations in your community is available on the NHTSA web site at: www.nhtsa.gov

PROPER CHILD SAFETY SEAT USE CHART

Buckle Everyone. Children Age 12 and Under in Back!

	INFANTS	TODDLER	YOUNG CHILDREN
WEIGHT	Birth to 1 year at least 20-22 Lbs.	Over 1 year and Over 20 Lbs to 40 Lbs.	Over 40 Lbs. Ages 4 to 8 up to 4'9"
TYPE OF SEAT	Infant only or rear facing convertible.	Convertible/forward facing.	Belt positioning booster seat.
SEAT POSITION	Rear-Facing Only	Forward-facing	Forward-facing
ALWAYS MAKE SURE:	Children to one year and at least 20 Lbs in rear facing seats. Harness straps at or below shoulder level.	Harness straps should be at or above shoulders. Most seats require top slot for forward facing.	Belt positioning booster seats must be used with both lap & shoulder belt. Make sure the lap belt fits low & tight across the lap/upper thigh area and the shoulder belt fits snug crossing the chest & shoulder to avoid abdominal injuries.
WARNING	All children age 12 & under should ride in the back seat.		

Safety Belts Save Lives!

Never place rear-facing infant seats on the front passenger seat. With the child's back that close to the dash, serious injury or fatality could occur if the airbag deploys.

Booster seats can save lives! For children weighing from 40 to 80 pounds and less than 4'9" tall, they are an important safety measure. When your kids outgrow forward-facing safety seats, buckle them in a booster seat.

Always follow the manufacturer's instructions for proper installation and use of child safety seats.



The Danger of Distractions



Anything that distracts you and makes you take your mind off your driving is a serious threat to your safety. Driving distractions, whether inside or outside of the car, cause more than 4,000 crashes a day! Here's how to keep the risk down to a minimum.

Don't adjust the controls on the dashboard while the car is in motion. Keep your eyes on the road.

Don't smoke, eat or drink while driving. The danger of flying ashes, spills and the complications of handling food or beverages while trying to operate a moving vehicle are sure invitations to disaster.

Do be aware at all times of the dangers present in talking on cell phones while driving. Pull over safely out of moving traffic if you must make a call.

Don't answer your phone if it rings while you are driving. It's safer to check your voice mail later or even miss the message rather than put yourself, your passengers and your vehicle at risk.

Do exercise control and keep your mind on the road while driving past outside distractions like auto accidents, police activities, malls, new construction and roadside billboards.



Young Driver's Alert!

More than 5,000 teenagers die every year because of their inexperience, or from taking unnecessary risks, or due to driver distractions. Teenagers today need to be particularly aware of the following do's and don'ts while either operating or riding in a vehicle:

Do resolve to drive wisely and safely at all times.

Don't stick your head or hands and arms out the window to say "Hi" to friends or to play other foolish games while driving.

Do be mindful that loud music is in itself a distraction to competent driving. Also, blaring music drowns out horns and other traffic noises you need to hear.

Don't change tapes, cd's or radio stations while the car is in moving traffic.

Do be aware that the more friends you pile into your car, the more distractions and more dangerous it is to operate your vehicle.

Don't wear headphones while driving. Remember you need to hear what's happening in traffic as well as see what's going on.

Let's Review...

Minimize the risks of the road. Always buckle-up and take care to eliminate dangerous distractions while driving.

Remember these important keys to safety:



The backseat is the safest seat for all children. Be sure they're buckled up in the back.



Booster seats help insure a safer ride. When a child outgrows the forward-facing safety seat but is still too small for a secure fit with a safety belt, use a booster seat before buckling up.



Using cell phones while driving is a very dangerous distraction. Dialing or simply conversing takes your mind off the road, many times with tragic results. Leave the phone alone while driving.



Rubbernecking while driving can be a danger to yourself, your passengers and other motorists. Keep your mind on the road.



Eating or drinking while driving is a dangerous distraction. Food and beverage spills can take your mind off the road long enough for very serious consequences.



Keep kids entertained with books and games to avoid squabbles or distracting conversations.



If you must smoke, don't do it while driving. Pull over for that cigarette break.



Don't use the rear view mirror for personal grooming while driving.



Stay focused. Pay attention. Expect the unexpected.

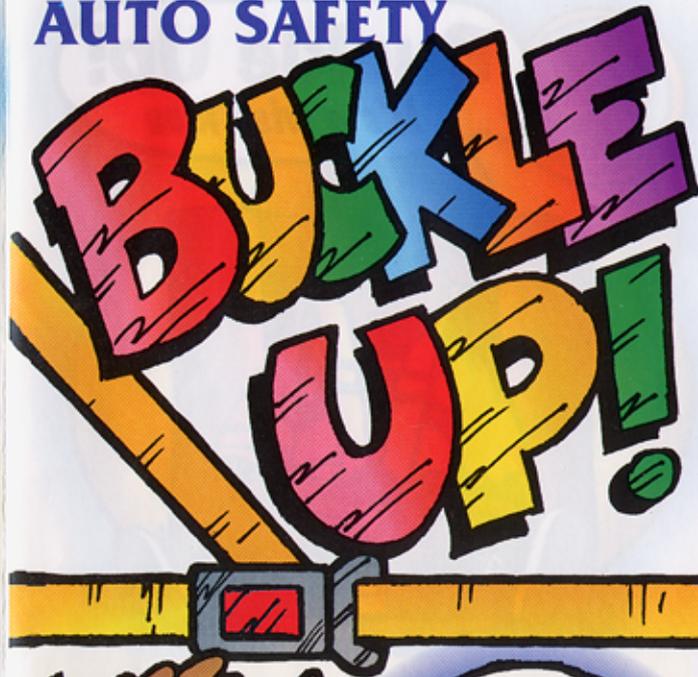


Youth's Safety Company

8400 N. University Drive
Dept. 208
Tamarac, Florida 33321

© 2003 DJR COPY PROHIBITED

AUTO SAFETY



AUTO SAFETY TIPS

WISE IDEAS!



LAFAYETTE FIRE DEPARTMENT

"OUR FAMILY HELPING YOUR FAMILY"