

Buckle Up: Seat Belt Usage Awareness

Fatal crashes on America's roadways are rising, and a major contributing factor is not wearing a seat belt. NCDOT is committed to supporting and protecting commercial motor vehicle (CDL) drivers, which includes encouraging seat belt use among drivers and CDL occupants.

Drivers that wear a seat belt helps protect them in a crash, complies with the law, and allows them to make it home safely.

Nearly half of all large truck occupants not wearing a seat belt in fatal crashes die. The call to action is simple: **always wear your seat belt because they help save lives.**

While an estimated 14% of CDL drivers nationwide do not wear their seat belts, we must recognize the many drivers who prioritize safety by always buckling up. North Carolina Department of Transportation SOP 10-19 – Vehicle Operation states that:

Drivers and passengers are required to wear seat belts. The driver must ensure all passengers are wearing seat belts prior to the operation of the vehicle.

Here are some of the many reasons why you should buckle up:

- **It keeps you safe.** As a CDL driver, staying safe on the roads is a priority. It's essential to maintain safety as your focus, which includes wearing a seat belt.
- **It helps you make it home safely.** Whether it's family, friends, or even pets, making it home to those who depend on you matters most.
- **It's required by law.** We know CDL drivers take pride in driving safely and their critical role in keeping America moving. Complying with company safety policies and respecting the law are marks of professionalism.

Please help keep our roads and North Carolina safe by wearing your seat belt.