

MSFC Surveys of Safe Behavior: Use of Handrails, 2001

Location	People Observed Using Handrails
4200 Area	88%
4471	6% (Outdoor Stairway)
4487	69%
4610	70%
4708	69%
Test Area	29%
Overall	66% of approximately 250 people

- **Falling on stairways has been MSFC's most frequent cause of injury.**
- **Use of handrails while using stairways is an MSFC sitewide safety rule.**
- **Usage rates show need for improvement, especially on outside stairways.**

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MSFC Surveys of Safe Behavior: Use of Seatbelts, 2001

Year	Use in Private Vehicle	Use in Service Vehicle	Overall Rate of Use
1992	No Data	No Data	82%
1998	No Data	No Data	77%
1999	92%	33%	88%
2001	73%	31%	64%

- Observed about 750 vehicles, including over 200 service vehicles (owned by government or contractor).
- U.S. Department of Transportation reports 71% national usage rate; we should be *exceeding* that performance level!
- Seatbelt use is required by the state of Alabama, Army, and MSFC.
- Low usage rate in service vehicles suggests a tendency not to buckle up for short trips.

Why YOU Should Use Seatbelts

- Over 40,000 people die in traffic accidents each year.
- For people under the age of 35, vehicle accidents are the leading cause of death.
- Seatbelts can prevent death in about 50% of those accidents.
- Being thrown from a moving vehicle is the leading cause of death in traffic accidents.
- Staying inside the vehicle offers your best chance of survival.
- Seatbelts are designed to keep you inside the vehicle, where there's Room To Live!

Understand the Human Collision

- Imagine your car is going 15 mph when it hits a wall...
- Your car stops in the first 10th of a second.
- YOU keep traveling, at your original rate of speed, *until something stops you* – steering wheel, dashboard, windshield, or *seatbelt* (IF you're wearing it).
- If your car is going 30 mph, YOU 'hit the wall' four times as hard as you would at 15 mph.
- The impact you'd feel would be the same as if you fell 3 stories.
- The only way to prevent that second collision, the Human Collision, is to wear a seat belt properly.

Properly Worn Seatbelts...

- Transfer the impact of the collision to body parts that can withstand it – your hip bones and shoulder bones.
- Have the lap belt snugly fitted across the hip bones, below your abdomen, **AND**
- Have the shoulder strap snugly fitted across the chest and shoulder (not the neck).
- A lap belt *alone* won't prevent collision between your face and the steering wheel. A shoulder strap *alone* will allow you to slide out beneath it, and can strangle you.

What's Your Excuse?...

Excuse	The Real Story...
<i>I'm only going to a nearby building.</i>	This is the best time to wear a seatbelt: 80% of traffic fatalities occur within 25 miles of 'home', at speeds under 40 mph.
<i>I'm a good driver, I won't have an accident.</i>	You may be hit by a bad driver, or find it impossible to completely avoid a collision.
<i>I'll just brace myself.</i>	You don't have the split-second response time to do that. The force of the impact would shatter the arm or leg you brace yourself with.
<i>The seatbelt could trap me in the vehicle.</i>	You're 25 times more likely to die, if thrown out. Seatbelts can help you stay conscious, improving your chances of getting out in a hurry. Fire or submergence occur in only a very tiny percentage of accidents.
<i>I've got an air bag.</i>	Air bags increase seatbelt effectiveness by 40%, but usually don't protect against side impacts. They are designed to give maximum protection to a seatbelted adult body.



YOU Are Essential to
MSFC Mission Success

Drive To Survive!

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