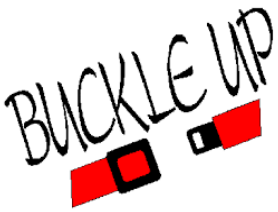
SEAT BELTS

Whether you are driving your personal vehicle or driving a county truck at work, safety belt use is important each and every time you get behind the wheel.



SEAT BELT USE IS MANDORATORY WHEN DRIVING COUNTY VEHICLES OR ON COUNTY BUSINESS OR ON COUNTY PREMISES! *(PPM 7.7.1)*

To understand the value of seat belt use, it's important to understand some of the dynamics of a crash. Every motor vehicle crash is actually comprised of **THREE** separate collisions.

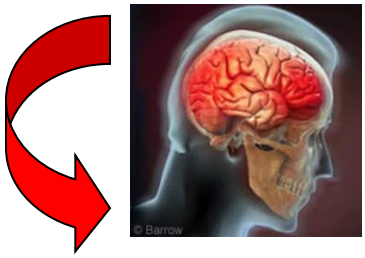
1) **CAR COLLISION**

The first collision is known as the CAR collision, which causes the vehicle to buckle and bend as it hits something and comes to an abrupt stop. This occurs in approximately one-tenth of a second. The crushing of the front end absorbs some of the force of the crash and cushions the rest of the car. As a result, the passenger compartment comes to a more gradual stop than the front of the car.

2) **HUMAN COLLISION**

The second collision occurs as the car's occupants hit some part of the vehicle. At the moment of vehicle impact; any unbelted occupants are still traveling at the vehicle's original speed. Just after the vehicle comes to a complete stop, these unbelted occupants will slam into the steering wheel, windshield, or some other part of the vehicle's interior. This is the HUMAN collision.

Another form of human collision is the person-to-person impact. Many serious injuries are caused by unbelted occupants colliding with each other. In a crash, occupants tend to move toward the point of impact, not away from it. People in the front seat are often struck by unbelted rear-seat passengers who have become high-speed projectiles.



3) **INTERNAL COLLISION**

Even after the occupant's body comes to a complete stop, internal body organs are still moving forward. Suddenly, these organs hit other organs or the skeletal system. This third collision is the INTERNAL collision and often causes serious or fatal injuries.

Why do you wear Seat Belts? During a crash, properly fastened seat belt will distribute the forces of any rapid deceleration over larger and stronger parts of a person's body ~ such as the chest, hips and shoulders. The seat safety belt stretches slightly to slow your body down and to increase its stopping distance.

The difference between the seat belted person's stopping distance and the unbelted person's stopping distance is SIGNIFICANT! It's often the difference between life and death.