WHY SEATBELTS?

+ Unbelted auto occupants are 14 times more likely to die than belted occupants. Seat belts reduce your chances of colliding with the windshield, dash board, steering wheel, etc. Trying to brace yourself is rarely successful.

+ Accidents can happen anywhere at anytime. Fatal crashes occur 42 percent more in rural areas than in urban areas.

+ Between 1975 and 2000, safety belts prevented 135,000 fatalities and 3.8 million injuries, saving $585 billion in medical and other costs. If all vehicle occupants had used safety belts during that period, nearly 315,000 deaths and 5.2 million injuries could have been prevented and $913 billion in costs saved.

+ In fatal crashes, 74 percent of all passenger vehicle occupants who were totally ejected were killed. Safety belts are effective in preventing total ejections: only 1 percent of the passenger vehicle occupants reported to have been using restraints in fatal crashes were totally ejected, compared with 29 percent of the unrestrained occupants.

Information supplied by the NHTSA