

Seatbelt Victims

The Book of the Dead



In Memoriam

Mother forced to watch her child burn to death:

Highland Park – Mount Washington Patch (Los Angeles, California) August 26, 2011.

CHP RELEASES DETAILS OF FATAL FREEWAY CRASH

Update: The California Highway Patrol has released its official report of the fatal car crash that took the life of an infant passenger Friday evening. The report indicates that the driver of the vehicle had pulled over in lane three of the Arroyo Seco Parkway due to a flat front passenger tire. The car caught fire immediately after it was rear-ended going southbound on the 110 freeway.

“The driver of the second vehicle collided with the first vehicle. This caused the first vehicle to catch on fire and eventually become fully engulfed (in flames). The one year old passenger of the first vehicle became trapped in her car seat as a result of the collision. Attempts were made by the involved parties and witnesses to remove the child from the vehicle but they were overcome by the fire and unsuccessful in their attempts. The child sustained fatal injuries.”

According to CHP’s incident report, drugs or alcohol were not a factor in the incident. No arrests were made.

Update: According to City News Services, several residents who lived near the 110 freeway attempted to rescue the toddler who died in a fiery car crash on Friday evening.A 26 year old community college student who lives in the neighborhood....told the Los Angeles Times that he and three other neighborhood residents attempted to fight the fire with a water hose and buckets. He also told the Times that he tried to remove the infant from the car after smashing the window with a baseball bat, but was burned and driven back by the growing flames inside the car.

Previously: “The car caught fire immediately and the mother and other motorists could not get close enough to rescue the child” said South Pass Police Chief Joseph Payne. “The mother was burned on the arms and hands. The car was fully engulfed (in flames) when we arrived on the scene.”

Received by Safety Choice, March 4, 2011:

Ladies and Gentleman,

I am so happy I found you. I have been crippled by my seat belt. There is not a single stinking, scumbag lawyer in all the world that will help me seek justice against this seat belt fraud that is being perpetrated on the American people. At the ripe age of 38, I was driving to work at Motorola in Boynton Beach, Fl., when a moron turned right in front of me, to my horror! Speed limit 45MPH, which I was doing. I am a safe driver and rarely speed unless someone is in trouble and needs help.

Let me say that I am pretty good in math and science and KNEW that seat belts were dangerous to begin with (ever run into a clothes line). I NEVER wore them! Then the "Florida Click IT or Ticket" campaign was in full effect and all over the news. As an aside, I had already gotten a ticket a few months earlier for not wearing them! So I complied. I wish I would have kept paying the ticket as 90MG of Morphine daily for eight years now is the end result of compliance. Needless to say, career over! Had I not been a physical specimen (strong), my neck would have snapped! A 1977 Vette does not have crumple zones!

I sit here anguished and pennyless waiting for the SSA to help me! I will be making my own bumper sticker proclaiming that seatbelts KILL and MAIME!

Please call on me as a witness to this, anytime.

Thank you,
Miguel Rodriguez

PS I refuse to wear them no matter the penalty! I am sure I will get pulled over soon, especially due to the bumper sticker.

Received by Safety Choice. March 4, 2011:

Dear friends,

I send you this e-mail to say a big "Thank you" for your work against seatbelt laws.

My story begins with my father - he is a car-crash expert here in Bulgaria and he has come to the conclusion that seatbelts are killing people and realized the fact that they just don't help in most other cases. He have seen hundreds of killed by seatbelt people.

I want to try my best to force a change in laws here, because I am sure that mandatory seatbelt laws are in collision with human rights.

Thank You and I wish you success with this hard fight against law iniquity.

I send you as attachment a single shot of a vehicle collision, where NOT wearing a seatbelt saved the red car driver's life.

Best wishes

'Internal Decapitation': One Boy's Amazing Recovery

Nine-Year-Old Boy Survives Separation of Skull From Spine

By DAN CHILDS
ABC News Medical Unit
Dec. 23, 2008

Stacy Perez says she can't remember much about the car accident in September.



Jordan Taylor, 9, survived an internal decapitation in a car accident this year. Doctors say 98 out of 100 people with this injury do not survive.

(Courtesy Cook Children's Medical Center)

[More Photos](#)

What the Hillsboro, Texas, woman does recall is how her car slammed into the side of a dump truck at an intersection at which she had the green light. She remembers losing consciousness and then awakening to find the flesh of her arm flayed by the broken glass of her shattered windshield.

But Perez says her most nightmarish memory of the accident was looking into the back seat to see the horrific injury her 9-year-old son had sustained.

"I remember getting out of the car and looking over at him and seeing his how his head had just fallen down," she said.

Jordan Taylor had been buckled in his seat. But the precaution did not protect him from what doctors term an atlanto-occipital dislocation. In other words, the force of the impact had shoved his skull an inch forward, separating it from his spine. It's an injury some call an "orthopedic decapitation."

"At that point I saw my arm, but I didn't care, because I was screaming for Jordan, and I didn't get a response," Perez said. "Two other people who had shown up were helping me because I couldn't really stand. They helped me to the ground, and I am just screaming his name."

Doctors say that 98 out of 100 times, this injury leads to death. Taylor, fortunately, survived long enough to reach a hospital.

"This was the first [patient] with this condition that I've seen survive," said Dr. Richard Roberts, the pediatric neurosurgeon who treated Taylor at Cook Children's Medical Center in Fort Worth. "It's not very frequent that this kind of patient makes it to us."

Safety Choice Comment: Notice that the mother, who was not wearing a seatbelt, was not seriously injured. The article is not entirely correct. The boy's skull was not "shoved an inch forward". This type of injury is caused by whiplash, which is due to the fact that the boy was wearing a seatbelt. And, as the doctors said, it is fatal 98 out of a 100 times.

Seatbelts kill: NewsOK, the Oklahoman, and KXII Channel 12 News Oklahoma, November 10, 2009. Dale Bannister, 73 was fatally injured when his car, a 2008 Chrysler, went off the road, struck a guard rail, rolled over twice and hit a bridge support. Bannister was wearing a seatbelt. Note: If the car rolled over twice, Bannister must have been travelling at a high rate of speed when his car left the road. He would have been fatally injured when the roof caved in, crushing his skull and breaking his neck. The seatbelt would have acted like an anvil, holding his body in place as the roof caved in.

Seatbelts kill: San Jose Mercury News, October 30, 2009. Teenage driver...high rate of speed....crashed into concrete divider....Ronald MacDowell riding in back seat (was killed)....wearing a seatbelt....driver critically injured. Young woman riding in front seat injured". Note: If the car crashed into a concrete divider at a high rate of speed the driver would have been crushed as the car was stove in. The fact that the driver was "critically injured" while the young woman passenger in the front seat was only "injured" indicates that the car hit the barrier at an angle with the driver's side more crushed than the passenger side. The fact that the driver was still alive, although "critical" after the crash, and that the car was a Honda Civic, means that the car was going around 45 mph when it hit. That means that the passenger in the back seat was killed by his seatbelt. The fact that the young woman in the front was not critically injured indicates a) that she was not wearing a seatbelt and b) that MacDowell would also have lived had he not been wearing a seatbelt. Of course a better "safety measure" would have been if the teenagers had not been street racing in the first place.

Seatbelts kill: (from Myspace death.com, November 14, 2009) "Police suspect (that Carey) fell asleep at the wheel on October 21, 2009, causing him to overturn the Jeep Wrangler (he was driving). The belted (Sean K.) Carey died at the scene as a result of his injuries, according to Idaho State Police". (Carey was killed when the jeep fell on top of him, crushing him to death. If he had not been wearing a seatbelt he would have been thrown clear and would almost certainly have survived.)

[http://www.mydeathspace.com/.../Sean_Carey_\(19\)_fell_asleep_at_the_wheel_of_his_Jeep,_causing_it_to_overturn](http://www.mydeathspace.com/.../Sean_Carey_(19)_fell_asleep_at_the_wheel_of_his_Jeep,_causing_it_to_overturn)

Seatbelts kill: (from the Del Valle News (Texas), October 21, 2009) "Edwin Aviles....failed to yield to a Chevy van....the van struck Aviles...who was pronounced dead at the scene. (Aviles) was wearing a seatbelt, DPS officials said. The driver of the van was not injured." (If the driver of the van had been wearing a seatbelt, you may be sure that the police would have said so, and he would have been seriously injured.)

Seatbelts kill: (from Richmond Times Dispatch, October 26, 2009) Jeronimo Mendez, drunk and speeding, crashed into a sign and was killed. Mendez was wearing a seatbelt, police said. For the full story, visit

http://www2.timesdispatch.com/rtd/site_elements/tags/tag/virginia+state+police

Ejections save lives: (from NewsOK, The Oklahoman, November 10, 2009). Nicole Venegas was driving her pickup truck down the street at a high rate of speed when she struck a group of parked cars. The truck became airborne, flipped over, and landed on its top. Four of the five occupants were thrown out (they were probably riding on the bed of the truck) and survived, but Venegas remained in the truck and was killed (No doubt she was crushed to death when the roof caved in). The survivors were taken to a local hospital and treated (which sounds as though their injuries were not serious). For the full story, visit

http://newsok.com/separate-wrecks-claim-4-in-oklahoma/article/3416083?custom_click=pod_headline_northeast-oklahoma-news#ixzz0XYGA9ILG

Collision in South Dakota: A Toyota pickup truck driven by Richard Chell collided with a Jeep Cherokee driven by Nicholas Helgeson. Helgeson was uninjured, Chell was killed. Guess which one was wearing a seatbelt. That's right, Chell, who was killed, was wearing a seatbelt. Helgeson, who was uninjured, was not. For the full story, visit http://www.rapidcityjournal.com/news/article_4eaf5f64-cbe2-11de-a3de-001cc4c002e0.html

Head-on collision in Minnesota: In one car the driver was wearing a seatbelt and a small child was strapped into a booster seat. In the other car neither of the two occupants were wearing seatbelts. Guess who died and who survived. That's right - the driver wearing the seatbelt and the child in the booster seat were killed. The two men who were not wearing seatbelts survived. Police claim that one of the two survivors was "ejected" and taken to the hospital "in critical condition". The other suffered only minor injuries. We are always suspicious of police claims of "ejection". We've seen too many that turned out to be false. For the full story, visit <http://www.startribune.com/local/69533172.html>

New Haven Register, June 16, 2009. "(17 month old) Montez Turner, Jr. died in the crash when the Ford Escape in which he was riding flipped over" This child almost certainly died because it was strapped into a booster seat. You may be sure that if the child had not been in a booster seat, the police would have mentioned it. The booster seat elevates the child and holds it in place, thus guaranteeing that the child will be crushed to death when the roof caves in. (For further information on what booster seats do to children in roll-overs, see puzzles 2 and 3 below).

Tulsa World, June 9, 2009: "...Salter died in a one vehicle collision...when his 2002 Freightliner left the road...and struck a tree. Salter was wearing a seatbelt (state troopers) said". Note: A Freightliner is a big truck. We don't have enough crush data on big trucks to know if Salter was crushed to death or killed by his seatbelt. If he was not crushed to death, he was almost certainly killed by his seatbelt. If he was going 40 mph or less when he hit, he would most likely have survived, had he not been wearing a seatbelt.

Colusa County Sun Herald, June 10, 2009: "Diego Valdez was killed...when his 1991 Dodge drifted off the road and struck a tree...(CHP Officer) Owens said... Valdez was wearing a seatbelt and shoulder harness, he collided head on with a tree at an unknown speed, sustaining fatal injuries as a result of the impact". Based on our research, if Valdez was going over 45 mph when he hit the tree, he would have been crushed to death. If he was going under 45 mph he would have been killed by his seatbelt. If he was going 40 mph or less when he hit, he would most likely have survived, had he not been wearing a seatbelt.

Las Vegas Review Journal, January 25, 2009: "...Gonzalez was killed in a single vehicle, roll-over accident...the accident report stated that the left half of the Explorer's roof was crushed inward and the entire roof was buckled and bowed. Gonzalez seatbelt was found partially extended. Gonzalez, who sustained head injuries, died of blunt force trauma". It's the old story - classic rollover - head bashed in when the roof collapsed; seatbelt prevented her from taking evasive action. In this case "seatbelt partially extended" may indicate that she was trying to avoid the blow. It's a wonder she was able to extend it at all - the seatbelt would have locked in the roll-over. But people have great strength in desperate situations.

Seatbelts = death: Fayetteville Observer, 3/19/09. "...Williams was driving... when his SUV plunged into the Lumber river. His two passengers drowned. ...(they) were wearing seatbelts and were unable to escape."

No seatbelts = minor injuries: Boston Herald, 3/23/09. "...two car crash.... travelling in close proximity at a high rate of speed (drag racing)...lost control at the same time and crashed into several trees...Neither Brandon nor his two passengers were wearing seatbelts. All three were treated for minor injuries and released."

Seatbelts kill: Toronto Star, March 16, 2009: "Total Horror: ...Police yesterday recovered the bodies of Carolyn Bray and Joeline Robinson from the lake...The pair were riding in a two seat utility vehicle... carrying Robinson's niece in the back.... Bray's cart hit a pressure crack in the ice and went under. Jeni Robinson managed to jump off the back but Bray and Joelin, belted in and unable to free themselves as they were swallowed up by the frigid water, disappeared under the ice."

No seatbelts = minor injuries: "Jane (Clark)...hit a lamp post with such force that she knocked it over and overturned her small car.....She ruined the car but crawled out with nothing more serious than some ugly bruises". From "Kenneth Clark" by Meryle Secrest, page 88. (The car she was driving, a Wolseley Hornet, was not equipped with seatbelts).

San Francisco Chronicle, October 16, 2008. "... the vehicle veered off the road, crossed a 30 foot shoulder, hopped an 18 inch embankment, and tumbled down more than 600 feet in darkness....The next morning rescuers found the three men, their seatbelts fastened, inside the vehicle. They were dead. The Jeep (Cherokee) was "rolled up to a ball" (Officer) Covello said. The cause of death for all three was blunt force trauma. An unsafe speed for conditions was a likely factor in the incident, (Officer) Covello said."

Daily Press (Virginia), December 30, 2008. "Owen Walter Carter.....driving a 2002 Chevrolet...ran off the road and struck a tree. (Police Sgt.) Cotten said Carter died at the scene. He was wearing a seatbelt".

Telegraph-Herald, Dubuque, Iowa, March 31, 2009. Two people died in a Saturday afternoon traffic crash. Thomas Dalton, 64, of Hartland, and Sara Fries, 29, of Sun Prairie, were killed around 5:30 p.m. in the crash that took place on U.S. 18 near the intersection with Iowa County J near Cobb. Iowa County authorities said Dalton lost control of his truck on the snow-covered road, causing it cross into the other lane of traffic and hit the vehicle Sara Fries was driving.

Authorities say both drivers were wearing safety belts at the time of the crash. Alcohol was not a factor.

10.39 The Tampa Tribune, FL, 4-4-88 Tampa- One person died and two remained in critical condition after an automobile crash early Wednesday, said Tampa police. Debra Brady died at Tampa General Hospital. Brady was the only person wearing a seat belt.

10.41 The Tampa Tribune, FL, 2-10-88. Adkins, with a quart of vodka under his belt, slammed his pickup into Green's car. Green, secured in her seat with a seat belt, was killed. Adkins did not wear a seat belt and was thrown against the truck's windshield. He suffered minor laceration to his face. Once healed, he'll be transferred to a cell at the Hillsborough County jail.

10.34 The Union Leader, 10-3-86 Concord Rep. George Gordon has written a letter to President Reagan about New Hampshire's opposition to mandatory seat belt laws: "A former military man told me that when he was overseas he and others riding in jeeps had to be buckled up but when they were in rough terrain and the jeeps overturned, soldiers were crushed to death or received serious injury as they could not jump out because of being strapped in."

10.68 (Letter) 1-23-89 I was involved in a hit and run accident in which I was hit on the left side. And then rushed to emergency, luckily only having minor pelvic fractures, cuts and bruises. Because I was not wearing my seat belt, my life was spared! Fortunately, not wearing my seat belt, I was not restricted in the seat where my legs and hips would have been pinned and severed, have me paralyzed or instantly dead.

10.66 Wyoming (newspaper unknown, letter to ed.)....Men went to work digging out the doors and prying them open. And out crawled a 200 pound-plus size man, unhurt. He had managed to get down on the floor and live. Had he had a seatbelt fastened, he'd have been killed.

27.01 Letter to Provo, Utah, Daily Herald, 03/03/05: I have two personal experiences that illustrate how wearing seatbelts....could result in injury or death from wearing them. The first happened to my brother. He got severely sideswiped by a farm truck and the post the seatbelt was attached to was severely crushed and forced back a couple of feet. Even the police officer investigating the scene commented on the fact that if he had been wearing his seatbelt he probably would have been severely injured in the accident. Instead he only ended up with some glass in his face and body. The second instance happened to a family friend who was pulling out of her driveway onto a highway. She didn't see a car coming her way and pulled right into its path. Her brother, who was also in the car, had a split second to pull her into his lap before they were t-boned. The car was crushed where she was sitting. If she had been wearing a seatbelt she may not be alive today. How many laws can result in death or injury by adhering to them? This is why I am opposed to seatbelt laws.

February 3, 2007: A Resolution by the Georgia House of Representatives:

"....WHEREAS, on November 1, 2005, Officer Buehler displayed selfless courage and heroism in responding to a deadly motor vehicle accident and, at great risk to his own life, saved the lives of others; and WHEREAS, at approximately 4:40 a.m., officers were dispatched to a horrific scene - two victims were trapped inside of an overturned, flame-wreathed vehicle on Interstate 75.... and, WHEREAS, officers....aided Officer Buehler as he crawled into the capzised vehicle, cut the occupants seatbelts (emphasis added) and extricated them to safety as the vehicle literally exploded in flames;...NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that this body recognizes and commends Officer Buehler for his outstanding bravery....."

Note: As the vehicle had overturned, the occupants were hanging from their seatbelts and would, therefore, have had great difficulty in opening them, even if they had not been injured by the accident. Thus, had it not been for Officer Buehler, they would almost certainly have burned to death.

10.79 (newspaper unknown)

"My aunt and uncle died in a fiery auto crash when a speeding car hit them from the rear. The impact caused the fire that killed them. Had they not been wearing seat belts, they would both have been able to get out of the car alive.

10.78 San Diego, 7-15-88

A 16-month-old girl burned to death in her parent's flaming car when she was trapped in her infant seat, authorities said. Naja Nawabi was pronounced dead in the parking lot of a medical center in Castro Valley. Two other children escaped injury. They watched in horror as their younger sister perished while two men tried to rescue her. "I tried to pull the seat, but it was stuck," said Gary Smith. I pulled harder, but I started to choke on the smoke. The flames completely engulfed the car."

10.97 (newspaper unknown), 1987

(NY Jets Marty Lyons) was proud of his 5-year-old son, Rocky, who helped save his mother's life by pushing her from the crumpled cab of the pickup truck that had flipped over on a highway, careened into a bridge and rolled down a 20 foot embankment. Rocky escaped with only a minor cut. Rocky was sleeping across the front seat when the truck hit a dip in the road, swerved and flipped over on its side. Kelly Lyons (mother) threw her body over her son before the truck struck the bridge, a collision that crumpled the roof in a "V" shape. "If she had been wearing her seat belt, she would have been killed instantly", Lyon said. After the truck came to rest upside down in the ditch, Kelly was immobilized because of her shoulder injuries. Rocky, who weighs 56 pounds, climbed out of his side of the truck, scrambled through another window and pushed his mother out. Then he helped push her up the embankment.

10.99 Journal Star, Peoria, IL, 7-17-85

Bloomington IL. A seat belt contributed to her fatal injury in a highway accident last month, a County coroner's pathologist said. Testimony showed Oldeen had to be cut from her seat belt and shoulder harness after her car was struck from behind by a four-wheel drive vehicle and broadsided by a semi-trailer. Dr. L. Kohau told a coroner's jury that the woman died of massive internal bleeding from a large star-shaped cut on her liver. (seat belt buckle?)

10.107 East Peoria Courier, IL

Police said the accident should have been worse than it was. Bolten's seat belt broke or came off when the collision occurred, throwing her into the back seat. "We don't know what would have happened if the seat belt stayed on," said Cates. "By how far the door was pushed in, she probably would have been hurt worse".

England-6 New Scientist, 2-7-85

Evidence that the wearing of a seat belt may not even save lives has been hushed up by Britain's Dept of Transport. An internal report, which is still confidential, says that the introduction of a new law making the wearing of seat belts compulsory in other European countries has not led to a detectable change in road-death rates. Indeed, the report says that the legislation might actually increase injuries.

England- 7 Birmingham Post, 4-24-84

A 19-year-old died after he was engulfed in flames as he struggled to unfasten his car seat belt. The three other occupants watched helplessly as Mr. Robert Merchant tried to free himself, and he died later from burns. "He just couldn't get the seat belt undone. In the end it burned through as he tried to pull himself out." ... "The car went over. It came to a stop and we all asked if everybody was OK. We all said we were," said Mr. O'Connor. "But then the car just went up in flames. I was the last one out but for Robert. He was shouting "help me. I can't get the seat belt off me." We couldn't help him, the belt was too much.

England-8 Daily Mirror, 3-2-83 (1)

Angry driver Terence Hudson claimed that the new clunk-click law almost cost him his life. For he was badly burned after being trapped by his seat belt at the wheel of his blazing van. Terence had just picked up some supplies when smoke began billowing from the engine. Within seconds the van was engulfed in flames. Terence swerved off the road and frantically clawed at the seat belt release, but it was stuck fast. Finally, he managed to wriggle free and was dragged clear by a passer-by. As he recovered in the hospital from burns he hit out at the compulsory wearing of seat belts. "I'll never used to wear one, " he revealed. " And I wouldn't be in here now if it wasn't for the new law.

England-8 (newspaper unknown) (2.)

A woman...in France was strangled by her seat belt.., The woman was in the passenger seat of a car driven by her husband when the car skidded off the road into a ditch. She turned to protect her children in the back seat and was strangled by the seat belt,

England-8 Sunday Express, 10-28-86 (3)

Karen Bilsborough put her foot on the accelerator instead of the brake. (the vehicle) plunged down an embankment and was hit by two high-speed trains. First London-Glasgow sleeper hit the back of the car, then a goods train sheared it in half. But amazingly, 20-year-old Karen and her boyfriend escaped with only slight injuries. Ian managed to scramble out of the car but Karen was trapped by her safety belt and was still in the car when the first train smashed into it.

England-9 Daily Mail, 8-28-85

A horrifying new truth is facing motorists and passengers: Your seat belt can hang you. Cases of hangman's fracture - the way a neck is snapped by a hangman's noose- are appearing in car accidents. The cause, say doctors in Canada, France, and Britain, is linked to compulsory seat belt wearing.

10.140 New York Times, NY, 3-26-92

Newnan, GA, March 25 -A jury rejected a lawsuit by the family of a 21 year-old woman who was decapitated by her automatic shoulder harness in a car accident.

10.153.1 (newspaper unknown), 2-27-91

Long Beach -Two people were killed when their compact car exploded in flames following a three-car collision on the San Diego Freeway.

Both the driver and a passenger were trapped inside the burning car after it ricocheted off two other vehicles and slammed into a concrete lane divider

10.154 Washington Post, 1-29-91

The collision occurred as Bauer, several family members and a friend were riding to a Christmas Eve program at Their car was stuck from behind,..by a car that Tata was driving, D.C. police said Bauer. who was wearing a seat belt; suffered internal injuries and died at Washington General Hospital Center. Tata ran from the scene.

10.155 Excerpt from testimony by Lawrence Dodge, Montana, 1988, given under oath in defense of his challenge of a seat belt ticket:

"In a nutshell, I fear for my life when restrained in a vehicle. I would not be alive today had I been wearing a seat belt in a large sedan with I crashed into an embankment and rolled several times down a mountain road in 1959. The entire top of the car was crushed down onto the front seat I had I not been able to dive literally across the car and tuck myself under the dashboard at the last second, I'd have been crushed.

10:164 Buffalo News,NY) 10-28-85

It was ironic that the Raupps who were riding in a large car and wearing belts, were killed. The cousins, in spite of the fact they were riding In a small car and wearing no seat belts, survived.

10.164 SyracuseHeraldAmerican, 9-1~85

She and her sister-in-law were trapped in the front seat. In the rear seat, Benedict's 37 year~old daughter has broken her pelvis and was unable to move. Then they used a knife to cut Knickerbocker's seat belt, which jammed. Moments later, the woman's car was in flames.

10.165 (newspaper unknown)

Buffalo, NY. A Rochester man died after he became trapped in his burning car because he apparently could not unbuckle his seat belt, state police said. Morrision pulled the car onto the shoulder of the road. As he struggled to get his seat belt undone and get out of the car, the vehicle burst into flames, troopers said. The three other passengers said they also had trouble with the lap belts in the car, but they managed to escape with minor bumps. "They (the seat belts) almost killed me, and they killed my brother".

10.108 San Diego Tribune, 2-25-87

Capener stopped, expecting the car to slow down. It didn't and hit Capener's car, slamming the door. Capener wasn't wearing his seat belt for which he is thankful. "If I'd have been wearing a seat belt, I'd be in a hospital" Capener said. "Maybe I wouldn't even be in a hospital. The car was totaled and the door is covering more than half the seat where I was sitting." When Capener saw that he couldn't avoid the accident, he jumped toward the passenger's side

10.110 (newspaper unknown) Idaho. (note: "newspaper unknown" means that the person who sent in the clipping did not specify which paper it was from).

We rushed to the car, pulled the door open. He was pinned down with his chest touching his knees. We could have gotten him out but his seat belt was done up and we couldn't get to the release. Suddenly, fire was everywhere. That young man, yelling and screaming, burned to death as we watched! None of us had a knife to cut the belt and he burned to death before we could get something. The belt killed him!

10.112 San Diego Tribune, 7-21-90 (letter to ed)

Consider a recent accident of a young driver without a seat belt who fell asleep. His car left the highway, it hit a rock which sprang his left door, then diverted to the right and threw him out sliding along the highway, hurt but alive and fully recoverable.

The empty car continued and finally hit a big rocky mountainside and was completely demolished. Had he been strapped in he would have not have survived..

10.115 Chicago Tribune, 1-13~87 .

Chicago Fire Dept scuba divers found the man's body Monday morning strapped inside the submerged car...

10.122 Letter sent to Minnesota Civil Liberties Union, 3-22-&5, by Linda Schelinder

I am writing to voice my objection to the proposed "mandatory seatbelt law". I personally am alive today because I was involved in a car accident in which I did not wear my seatbelt. I was 5 months pregnant at the time and my (future) daughter is alive also because I chose not to wear a seatbelt. A truck hit me with such force that it pushed the dash right into the front seat back rests. Luckily I did not have a passenger with me, for the passenger would have been cut in two. As for me there was only one place to be in the front seat to survive the crash and that was to slide way over tight against the driver's door and down towards the floor. Had I had a seatbelt on I wouldn't have been able to make that move and I would have been killed or seriously injured by the dash of the car. Also, there is no doubt in anyone's mind that my unborn child would have been killed too.

10.165 Telegraph, Alton, IL. 4-26-85

A 31-year-old woman and her infant daughter died in a pickup truck which burst into flames as the woman's husband tried to free his family from the vehicle.

His wife, Lucie, and 20-month-old daughter, Katie, were passengers in the truck and both died in the fire.

Morgan said the truck first began to backfire and stall. As the vehicle slowed down, he looked in the rearview mirror and saw flames coming from the rear of the truck and smelled smoke in the cab, he said. By the time he stopped the truck, flames were coming from under the truck up the sides of the vehicle. Morgan said. Morgan got out of the driver's door and ran to the passenger side, where he attempted to get the door open and get his wife and daughter out of the truck, but he was unable to open the door, he told the deputy . Beating on the truck and passenger window, Morgan noticed his own clothing was in flames and said he dropped to the ground and began rolling to extinguish the flames. He remembered nothing further. When sheriffs deputies arrived at the burning truck, the Godfrey Fire Dept. was already at the scene and attempting to extinguish the flames which engulfed the vehicle. When the fire was extinguished the bodies of Mrs. Morgan and the baby were found in the cab, the child still strapped in a car seat next to the passenger door and the mother in the middle seat position in the cab. (Both) burned beyond recognition.

10.166 Los Angeles Times, 7-27-85

Four lives in my immediate family were spared because they were not buckled up.

10.169 (newspaper unknown) NY (1)

Pressure on the neck from his seat belt's shoulder harness caused the cardiac arrest that killed Gabriel Sunson, 7, in a one-car accident, a Chemung County medical examiner ruled Monday. (Dr.) Nigogosyan compared the strap's impact on the boy's throat with a certain karate blow.

10.169 (newspaper unknown) (2)

East Meadow. L.I., (UPI)- A woman died of internal injuries caused by the seat belt, the medical examiner says.

10.169 (newspaper unknown) (3)

Depoe Bay, OR (AP) -Deana Tegner, 46 survived a 100 foot plunge in her car onto a beach from a highway cutting across rugged cliffs Wednesday and said later she probably would have been crushed if she has been wearing a seat belt.

10.174 (comments attached to a photo of an accident)

Allen was thrown free of the vehicle before it wrapped itself around the tree. He stood up and walked away from the accident. Allen and his two children are very glad that he was not strapped in a seat belt.

10.175 During a press Conference, the Institute For Injury Reduction released information that clearly shows some of the potential dangers of using the new automatic seat belts.

10.176 (newspaper unknown) CA

Inglewood, (AP)- The 59 year-old Shoemaker broke his neck when his vehicle careened off a freeway and tumbled down a steep embankment. His upper and lower extremities were paralyzed. Shoemaker was wearing a seat belt.

10.179 (newspaper unknown)

A Council Bluffs woman's decision not to wear a seat belt may have saved her life when her truck went off Interstate 29 and overturned. Hatcher had to be freed from the wreckage by rescue workers. Reports (Sheriffs) said the roof of the cab was totally collapsed. The fact that she was not wearing a seat belt "probably saved her life," reports said. Hatcher was cited for failure to control her vehicle.

10.180 Times Republic, IA, 1-2-92

A woman survived a horrifying 11 hours trapped in a submerged car thanks to a tiny air pocket. If she has gone more feet into the freezing-cold water, or if she had been wearing a seat belt, Lydia O'Neal would have died, say police.

10.181 Omaha World-Herald NE (letter to ed)

"I, myself, am frightened at buckling up my seat belt. In my thousands of miles traveled through many foreign countries, three times I have seen death caused because the victims could not unbuckle themselves. In one accident, the door was open but with broken wrists, the passengers could not get out and two burned to death .I could not get close enough to help because of the fire."

10.192 San Diego Daily Transcript, 7- 7-86

Yreka, CA (UP) A judge is dismissing citations for violation of the state's seat belt law as unconstitutional. He said seat belts may be dangerous and probably would have cost him his life had he been strapped in. was spared by being thrown underneath the dashboard as his car hit a patch of ice and overturned atop a concrete divider.

10.198 LaCrosse Tribune, 6-17-93

Edna Klinnski, 75, of Caledonia, Minn. Died last Thursday in a traffic accident after she tried to leave her car and became entangled in the seat belt and was asphyxiated, Houston County Coroner said.

10.219 (newspaper unknown) NE

Alan was killed in a 2:40 p.m. accident, Nebraska State Patrol Sgt. Bob Veal said. The car left Interstate 80 and rolled over two and a half times, landing on its hood, Veal said. (Note: The driver (wife) was not wearing a seatbelt and survived the accident. Alan was wearing one and died. (WJH).

10.218 Omaha World-Herald, 8-23-89

Shorty Vest - "I don't know if other short people have as much trouble as I do with seat belts, but they restrict movements. I can't turn my body much at all.

This complicated some three years ago when he developed carpal tunnel syndrome, a blocking of the channel that carries the nerve to the hand.

"One night, one horrible night," he said, "I got home in the wee hours about 1:30. I stopped the car in the driveway and pushed the release to get out of the seat belt. It didn't work. I just didn't have the strength to push it far enough. There I was, trapped."

After 25 minutes of imprisonment, a strength borne of desperation enabled him to release himself.

10.262 New York Times. NY, 2-28-95

Westport. Conn. Feb. 27- the deserted parking lot at Compo Beach is a favorite practice ground for beginning drivers in winter, and on Sunday morning it attracted Thomas P. Puccio, the prominent defense lawyer, and his 16-year-old son, Matthew, who was visiting him for the weekend. But a missed turn during the lesson apparently led to a common beginner's mistake - stepping on the accelerator instead of the brake -and their Mercedes-Benz station wagon plunged down an embankment into the waters of a yacht basin. Mr. Puccio, who not wearing a seat belt, escaped when pressure blew out a window of the sinking car. His son, wearing a seat belt, was trapped behind the steering wheel and drowned.

10.287 (newspaper unknown) NE, 7-24-96

Clay Center (AP) A Keamey girl was killed after the car she was driving flipped and rolled into a water-filled ditch, drowning her, police said.

...She was trapped in the car and downed, officials said. Hams was wearing a seat belt.

10.300 Indianapolis Star, IN, 4-14-99

A van carrying his three children blew a tire, swerved out of control and plunged into a canal. All three children drowned.

...The family was driving home when the van driven by the children's uncle lost control after the (tire) blowout. The father was driving ahead. He stopped and rushed toward the van to see its front end tipped into the water. Ellis jumped in the water but never reached the children. They were strapped inside the van. The children's uncle escaped by taking off his seat belt and wriggling out of the van's window. Michael Ellis said he saw the children trying to free themselves from their seat belts as the water poured in. "I couldn't help any of the children," he said "I tried but I couldn't because of the seat belts. "

10.309 "Cost of seat belt-related whiplash injuries rising" Canadian Medical Association Journal, May 18, 1999.

Dr. Charles Galasko, professor of orthopedic surgery, University of Manchester, in an address during the recent Whiplash Association Disorders World Congress, Vancouver, noted that the number of patients with whiplash-related complaints more than tripled the year after seat belts were introduced in the UK in 1983. He also said awareness of the significance and impact of whiplash has been influenced by under-recording and misclassification. Also, he said as many as 45% of whiplash patients in the UK are not included in national injury data and suggested that there are probably close to 250,000 new whiplash patients in the UK every year. In the US, he said, the total probably approaches 1 million cases.

<http://www.cma.ca/cmaj/vol-160/issue-10/1425b.htm>

10.310 In a letter dated 2-9-93 from Nackey Loeb, president and publisher, The Union Leader, Manchester, NH, is the following comment:

"P.S. For your interest, I am paralyzed, in a wheelchair, due to an automobile accident. It was the fact that I was not wearing a seat belt that the accident did not kill me. II

10.312 Omaha-World-Herald- NE; 2-3-93 "Two watch helplessly as man dies"

Two passing drivers said Tuesday that they tried to save an Omaha man who was trapped in his burning car Monday night. But the man died as they watched helplessly.

Daniel Hardy, 40, of Wahoo and Jim Ringle, 28, of Fremont came upon the single-car crash on US highway 275...

"I've seen a lot of traumatic things in the course of my 20 years of nursing practice and I have never felt as helpless as I felt in that particular situation," said Hardy, who is a registered nurse...

"That's the spooky thing," said Ringle, a welder... "We talked to the guy, and he was conscious. And then he wasn't... It was nothing I'd ever seen before, and I thought about it all night. "

Krause (the victim) was alone heading east on US 275. He lost control of the car for an unknown reason and crossed the center land. Douglas County sheriff Lt.

Hammer said

The car struck a tree, spun in mid air and rolled into a dry creek bed, coming to rest on its roof.

Hardy gave this account:

Hardy was driving west on US 275 and had just passed under the Nebraska 21 overpass when he saw a flickering orange glow reflected off trees in a ravine. He got out of his car and saw the overturned car.

Hardy flagged down another driver to summon help. Then Ringle drove up and he and Hardy went through the brushy area to the creek bed.

"Is there anyone in that car?" Ringle yelled

"Yeah, I'm in here!" a voice called out. "Get help fast! Help me! Hurry ! I can't get out of my seat belt."

Ringle kicked at the partly open door, trying to open it further. Hardy reached in but couldn't free the man, who was upside down.

Hardy was forced back by the heat and watched helplessly as the flames spread inside the car. Krause lost consciousness.

Ringle and Hardy stepped back about 20 yards as the flames engulfed the car. Said Hardy, "You'll always wish you could have done something".

10.317 The Austin American-Statesman, Austin, TX; 8-8-00 "Texas state trooper dies from gunshot"

Austin Texas. Aug. 8 (UPI) -Funeral arrangements were pending Tuesday for a Texas state trooper who was shot in the head last week after stopping a motorist for not wearing seat belt. Trooper Randal W. Vetter, 28, died Monday night at Brackenridge Hospital in Austin where he had been in critical condition for five days. He was the 75th Texas trooper to die in the line of duty.

Authorities are expected to upgrade charges against Melvin Hale, a 72-year-old retired rancher who is now jailed in lieu of \$1 million bond on a charge of attempted murder of a Police officer. The charges will probably be upgraded to capital murder.

As Hale was being escorted to jail he admitted to reporters that he shot Vetter.

"I did it," he said, "I'm a law-abiding citizen. I like to drive down the road without being arrested."

10.320 The Seattle Times: 8-12-02

"Driver couldn't free 3 crash victims"

The crash occurred at 6:22 p.m. just south of Northeast 160th St., in Bothell. Sarah K. Ports, 25, of Bothell, driving a 2002 Ford Explorer, rear-ended the Fikret's 1988 four-door Honda Accord, which had stalled and was partially in the right lane. The Honda burst into flames.

Witnesses said Atila, 40, who had been driving, was pulled from the burning car but his family was trapped inside as other drivers who ran to help tried frantically but unsuccessfully to cut their seat belt. Badly burned, Atila lay in shock on the side of the road while drivers attempted to comfort him. Others tried to put out the fire with handheld fire extinguishers. By the time fire trucks and paramedics arrived, which witnesses estimated took 10 minutes, they could not reach those trapped in the car .

Greg McCormack, of Bothell, on his way home from a picnic with his wife, said the scene was horrific.

CA-15 (newspaper unknown)

Yreka, CA (UP) A judge is dismissing citizens for violations of the state seat belt law on the ground that it is an unconstitutional interference with personal rights. The rulings by Judge Ross Bigler have been appealed Siskiyou Superior Court. Bigler said he has tossed out citations against four defendants in recent months. He said seat belts may be dangerous and probably would have cost him his life had he been strapped in during an automobile accident five years ago. Bigler said he was spared by being thrown underneath the dashboard as his car hit a patch of ice and overturned atop a concrete divider. "People have a right to make their decision (on seat belts) for themselves," he told the Sacramento Bee. Lawmakers cannot legally "make a law saying everyone must conform just because it's good for you."

England-10 Daily Express, 9-10-84

Two party-goers drowned while trapped by seat belts in the front seat of a car which crashed into the River Way. Four back seat passengers smashed their way out of the rear window and were helped to safety, but attempts to rescue the driver and front seat passenger failed. The bodies of Susan Lons and Richard Jones had to be cut free by firemen. Mr. Elliott said, "I went after the young man and woman in the front but I could not get them because they still had their seat belts on." Ambulance man Dodson told of his desperate struggle to free the girl, hanging upside down under water.

England-36 Daily Telegraph, 10-23-85

Mr. Smith was traveling on the north-bound carriageway when he saw the accident happen and jumped over the central barriers to help. Mr. Smith tried to operate the door of a blazing car with a man and woman inside. The man was very calm and did not scream. He just held up his hands and pleaded: 'Get me out, please.' By this time his wife was on fire. As he pleaded, he was set on fire.

"I (Mr. Smith) had to turn away. I couldn't watch them die. There was nothing I could do..."

(NOTE: The person who sent this newspaper clipping, wrote: 'On BBC Breakfast TV, (Mr. Smith) stated how the car door was jammed; he broke the window, but the couple could not undo their seat belts. The newspaper account did not mention that fact.'

England-37 Express Star, 5-18-85

A policeman dragged a screaming woman from a blazing car after her seat belt jammed.

Sandra Garrett was trapped in the car as flames roared from the bonnet.

"It was terrible. I was so frightened," she added "but I just could not free myself. I don't know what would have happened if the policeman had not arrived". Sandra said he (policeman) fought through the flames and grabbed hold of her, pulling her out of the belt.

England--38 Croydon Advertiser, 12-13-85 ...

A reckless driver who helplessly watched his best friend trapped in the blazing inferno of his wrecked sports car is still haunted by the nightmare death crash. But because the teenage motorist was not wearing a seat belt, he was thrown clear when his Fiat Sports car hurled into a lamp post and burst into flames, said Mr. Keith Salvesen prosecuting at Inner London Crown Court. But his friend who had been wearing a seat belt, was trapped in the blazing car.

England-39 (newspaper unknown)

Mrs. Fearon, however, had remained trapped inside her mini while it was on fire. The window was open and he attempted to release Mrs. Fearon from her seat belt but without success and was beaten back by the flames.

England-50 Buckinghamshire Advertiser, 5-12-84

Rescuers tried frantically to drag a man from his blazing car after a crash but he was trapped by his seat belt.

Mr. Kelly, 21, said a few moments passed and he realized that the lorry was not going to move out. Then it rammed into the back of the car which exploded.

He said, "I stopped my car and ran back to see what I could do. Somebody smashed the windshield and we tried to pull the man through it but he was held in by his seat belt.

At one point the person inside tried to get out of the door but he couldn't make it. We couldn't open the door because it was buckled. Soon he stopped moving.

Consultant pathologist told the inquest that Mr. Heggie's limbs and

chest had been very severely burnt, but that he had died from breathing smoke.

England;50 Daily Mail, 3-18-85

A driver was killed and his wife and son were injured when a car being chased by the police collided with theirs.

Mrs. Pat Meades said "I thought it was pretty disgusting. Neighbors cut the belt to get the couple out. "

(From an email message dated 6-6-03

The MetroWest Daily News Fanningham, Mass.

Letter: Seat Belts are a fraud

I was directly involved with the investigation of the settlements and evaluations of automobile injury Claims for nearly 17 years.

I took all manner of courses and seminars, spoke at length with orthopedic specialists and read most of the publicly available information on clinical experience with seat belts.

They are a fraud on the public, in my opinion.

Seat belts were an experiment by the auto manufacturers in the early 1980s The companies initially had only the lap strap. So far as I was able to tell, they were a failure from the start. Seat belts have evolved from lap straps to fancier items these days, but they are just as dangerous.

In an accident,situation, they are supposed to tighten up and hold you safe and secure, You have heard a lot about "shaken baby syndrome" in the last few decades, but this is not exclusive to babies. There is no clear evidence that seat belts save lives and no clear evidence that they minimize injury .

To the contrary , a whiplash injury definitely causes damage similar to the shaken baby syndrome. If you are hit from behind and are without a seat belt, you may break your nose as you roll forward and strike your head on the steering wheel, but if confined by belts the G- forces snap your head and neck back and forth far more violently and can cripple you for life if it fails to kill you outright.

10.312 Omaha-World-Herald, NE. 2-3-93 "Two watch helplessly as man dies"

Two passing drivers said Tuesday that they tried to save an Omaha man who was trapped in his burning car Monday night. But the man died as they watched helplessly.

Daniel Hardy, 40, of Wahoo and Jim Ringle, 28, of Fremont came upon the single-car crash on US highway 275.

"I've seen a lot of traumatic things in the course of my 20 years of nursing practice and I have never felt as helpless as I felt in that particular situation," said Hardy, who is a registered nurse.

"That's the spooky thing," said Ringle, a welder "We talked to the guy, and he was conscious.

And then he wasn't. It was nothing I'd ever seen before, and I thought about it all night. "

Krause (the victim) was alone heading east on US 275. He lost control of

the car for an unknown reason and crossed the center lane, Douglas County sheriffs Lt.

Hammer said.

The car struck a tree, spun in midair and rolled into a dry creek bed, coming to rest on its roof.

Hardy gave this account:

Hardy was driving west on US 275 and had just passed under the Nebraska 21 overpass when he saw a flickering orange glow reflected off trees in a ravine. He got out of his car and saw the overturned car .

Hardy flagged down another driver to summon help. Then Ringle drove up and he and Hardy went through the brushy area to the creek bed.

"Is there anyone in that car?" Ringle yelled

"Yeah, I'm in here!" a voice called out. "Get help fast! Help me! Hurry! I can't get out of my seat belt. "

Ringle kicked at the partly open door, trying to open it further. Hardy reached in but couldn't free the man, who was upside down.

Hardy was forced back by the heat and watched helplessly as the flames spread inside the car.

Krause lost consciousness.

Ringle and Hardy stepped back about 20 yards as the flames engulfed the car. Said Hardy, "You'll always wish you could have done something."

10.313 Seattle Times, WA, 8-12-03

"Drivers couldn't free 3 crash victims"

Fikret Atilla remained in critical condition at Harborview Medical Center yesterday following Saturday's fiery , two -vehicle accident on northbound Interstate 405, which killed his wife and two daughters.

Sarah Potts, 25, rear-ended the Fikret's 1988 four-door Honda

Accord, which had stalled and was partially in the right lane. The Honda burst into flames.

Witnesses said Atilla, 40, who had been driving, was pulled from the burning car but his family was trapped inside as other drivers who ran to help tried frantically but unsuccessfully to cut their seatbelts.

Others tried to put out the fire with handheld fire extinguishers. By

the time fire trucks and paramedics arrived, which witnesses estimated took 10 minutes, they could not reach those trapped in the car .

10.320 The Seattle Times: 8.12.02

"Drivers couldn't free 3 crash victims"

The crash occurred at 6:22 p.m. just south of Northeast 160th St., in Bothell. Sarah K. Potts, 25, of Bothell, driving a 2002 Ford Explorer, rear-ended the Fikret's 1988 four-door Honda Accord, which had stalled and was partially in the right lane. The Honda burst into flames. Witnesses said Atila, 40, who had been driving, was pulled from the burning car but his family was trapped inside as other drivers who ran to help tried frantically but unsuccessfully to cut their seatbelts. Badly burned, Atila lay in shock on the side of the road while drivers attempted to comfort him. Others tried to put out the fire with handheld fire extinguishers. By the time fire trucks and paramedics arrived, which witnesses estimated took 10 minutes, they could not reach those trapped in the car. Greg McCormack, of Bothell, on his way home from a picnic with his wife, said the scene was horrific.

IA-6 Des Moines Register, 10-18-87

Colman said a 16-year-old relative from Hambooldt recently was killed in an auto accident even though he was wearing a seat belt. The driver, who was not wearing a seat belt, survived the crash, he said.

NJ-2 Star Leger (letter to ed), 1-11-90

I must say, point out, that seat belts are not always a good idea. My experience shows that they can sometimes be deadly. I was in an accident in 12-30-89. I was a passenger in a car that was broadsided by a pickup truck. The entire side of the car was crushed as the truck hit us from the side and basically drove over us. If I had been wearing a seat belt, you would not be reading this letter now since my body would have been crushed.

WI-2 (letter 4-4-84)

I can personally confirm an accident in which my nephew came very close to being killed. He quickly served to the left to avoid a collision. His auto overturned two and one half times and came down over a fence post that came through the driver side window in front of the steering wheel. He was not strapped in a seat belt and was thrown free of his seat and crawled out through a broken window and survived the accident.

I can quote another accident. It was two-auto, head-on collision. One auto carried 6 persons. All were strapped in seat belts, all were killed. The other auto carried 3 persons. None were wearing the safety belt. Those 3 persons survived the accident and appeared before a court for violation of the mandatory seat belt law.

(NOTE: Here, again, survive an accident only because you didn't use a seat belt and the government will punish you for not dying in the accident using a government mandated so-called safety seat belt harness!)

Canada-5 (Maclean's magazine. 10.286) Ontario

In April 1970. West of Woodstock, Ontario, two cars collided head-on. In one car, 6 persons wore seat belts. In the other car, 3 persons were not buckled. The 6 buckled persons were killed. The autopsies revealed they died from severe injuries to the abdomen caused by the seat belts. The other 3 did not wear a seat belt and survived. Dr. Blackwood (coroner) declares that the Province of Ontario should be prosecuted before the Courts for its murderous mandatory seat belt law. And he adds that it is ironical to see that the 3 person who did not wear a seat belt at the accident, and who were not killed because of it are the ones who have been brought before the Courts by the Ontario Provincial Police (for violation of the seat belt law).

England-5 Daily Mail, 7-29- 76

~~Two~~ Two men burned to death in their crushed car, trapped by their safety belts. The story was told at an inquest in Newark, Nottinghamshire, where would-be rescuers said they tried to save the men but could not unlock the belts. Miner Mr. Allen Atlas of Toiney Lane, Newark, told the inquest that he saw the driver's trousers catch fire, then his hair. "I tried to drag him through his seat belt, but was unable to do so. I tried to unfasten the belt, but I was getting burned."

England-5 Daily Mail, 5-12-77

Not wearing a seat belt saved the life of Mrs. Carolyn Lewis. Mrs. Lewis was sitting next to the driver. The car left the road and hit a fence. Mrs. Lewis was able to twist to one side as a concrete post came through the windshield past the spot where she had been sitting and decapitated the passenger sitting behind her.

2.9 Chicago Tribune, Illinois, 3-2-86

"Ten years ago I was living in New York and my car caught fire from an electrical short somewhere under the hood. Had I been wearing a seat belt, I never would have had the chance to get out." observed one man.

(10.15.1) U.S. News & World Report, 8-25-86

When the van carrying 11 pre-schoolers crashed head-on into a sedan the five children with no seat belts walked away with a few scratches. Five others, all wearing lap belts, sustained severe head, spinal cord and abdominal injuries. One died.

10.20 Burlington Times-News, NC 3-28-86

She was on her way to a shopping center in Raleigh when a , tractor-trailer came loose from the cab, came across the median and hit her head on. If she had been wearing a seat belt, she would have been crushed to death. The impact threw her over in the seat. The steering wheel was bent where she had been sitting. It was several weeks before she could be active. But today, she is all right "Please give me the choice to wear a seat belt or not. Don't make it a law".

10-27 Tampa Tribune, FL 2-7-87

St. Petersburg -A woman, whose car veered off the approach to the Sunshine Skyway Bridge and plunged into Tampa Bay died about six hours later, officials said. In a slow, swirling current near the Sunshine Skyway Bridge, the 35 year-old woman, had survived underwater for almost seven minutes as two fishermen and rescue workers tried to untangle her from her seat belt. "It went down nose first, " he said. "I was on top of it I just couldn't get to her. I heard a thump and then I seen a car coming through the air," he said. "She didn't say anything. She was frozen to the steering wheel when they took her out. They had to cut the seat belt".

10.34 The Union Leader, NH, 1.0-3-86 (Letter ed.)

A van carrying 15 passengers, buckled up in their seat belts, was in a collision that ended with the van overturned and burning. Four passing motorists stopped to help, one entered the burning van and with a hunting knife cut the seat belts of the shackled passengers while the other three men dragged the released victims to safety. After saving eight the spreading flames prevented them saving any more. All the four heroes could do was watch the seven burn to death.

10.36.1 Wrestling Observer Newsletter, Campbell, CA 4-29-96

When the police and medics found Pillman Monday night moments after taking a 40-foot fall from being ejected as the vehicle rolled, he had lost so much blood that those who found him believed he wasn't going to make it. He was in the burns unit early in the week and originally in Intensive Care. His condition was quickly upgraded. He also felt fortunate the injuries weren't worse and that, for whatever reason, he wasn't wearing his seat belt at the time he rolled the humvee after striking a tree stump in a field. The vehicle was destroyed and he was told by police that had he been wearing his seat belt and not been thrown that he would have been crushed inside the vehicle.

e-mail received by seatbeltchoice.com, April 10, 2005:

Two weeks ago there was a violent private plane crash near the town of West Union, IA. Having my well-trusted relatives that live just a few miles from the crash site I am privy to some very interesting news.

The catastrophic crash sent the aircraft cartwheeling over a field and eventually bursting into flames. On board was a family of four and the plane's pilot. All in the craft were burned alive in the wreckage... except for one 11 year old girl who ran from the wreckage. She survived but suffered severe burns. Never the less, she survived.

Care to guess which one was NOT wearing her seat belt?

e-mail received by seatbelt choice.com, April 12, 2005:

I got your e-mail about the small plane crash.

Here is another true story. A few years ago in the U.S. a commercial airliner crashed on take off. There were 163 people on board and 162 of them were killed. The only survivor was the one person on the plane that was not wearing a seat belt. The so-called safety experts even reluctantly admitted that the one survived because they were not wearing a seat belt. It should also be noted the plane crashed on takeoff and was not going 500 mph.

Another true story took place in Canada. Two vehicles collided. There were 9 people in the 2 vehicles. Six of them were wearing seat belts and 3 were not. Six people were killed. You guessed it, the 6 people wearing seat belts were killed. The 3 survivors had to up before the judge and answer for breaking the law! The coroner that examined the bodies said in his opinion the seat belts is what caused their death.

From nbc4i.com NEWS, April 5, 2005:

Teacher Saves Child Nearly Strangled by Seatbelt
Girl expected to recover
Columbus, Ohio, April 5, 2005

Police said a teacher at a child care center saved a girl who was nearly strangled by a seatbelt on Tuesday morning. The 1 year old girl apparently became tangled in her seatbelt, NBC 4 reported. A teacher at Kindercare, located on Hard Road, gave the child CPR. The girl was transported to a hospital and was expected to survive.

From an article entitled "Non Nobis Sed Aliis", by Brian Wilson, Talk Show Host, ABC Radio Networks, received by e-mail March 14, 2005:

I won't bore you with the gory details of being forced into a highway barrier at 70+mph by a weaving 18-wheeler. Suffice to say, my car split in half, did a 360, tossing your humble writer across the highway into a ditch, landing with a neck broken in three places and few other lacerations and contusions. Had I been wearing a seat belt, this article wouldn't be nearly as entertaining since my half of the car stopped quite suddenly, thanks to a conveniently located concrete wall. The impact relocated the driver's seat to the trunk. Had I been buckled in, I would have been a bright red stain on that wall and you would be reading someone else's work in this space.

From an e-mail received February 5, 2005:

An anecdote: Before there were mandatory seat belt laws, when my two kids were little, my family of four was driving along a main shopping street in upstate New York when a senile driver coming in the other direction suddenly turned left in front of us. We hit that car broadside. My husband was driving, I was in the front passenger seat, my juvenile children (son and daughter) side by side in the rear seat. None of us were wearing seatbelts, which were quite new then, although I believe that car had them. My husband's head hit and bent the frame surrounding the front window, my head smashed a star pattern in the front window, the kids bounced off the back of the front seat. The police took us all to the hospital. The only thing I remember from that incident, which we all went home from that evening, is my conversation with the doctor who examined me. As soon as I arrived at the hospital, the doctor asked me "Were you all wearing seat belts?". And I replied, "No, we were not." "Good," said the doctor. "Then I will not have to worry about internal injuries." Ever since then, I have felt kind of dubious about buckling up.
Nancy Mathis

From an e-mail received February 6, 2005: (reproduced as received):

my wife was involved in a wreck yesterday, she hit a telephone pole and totaled her 2003 corolla she was not wearing a seatbelt and lived! she dislocated her kneecap but better her kneecap than her neck. she was saved by god and the crumple zone technology i believe she would not have been helped by the seatbelt and possibly hurt worse by it. all we could hear from everyone was how she was lucky to be alive without wearing her seatbelt so i said to them that i would hate to be so dumb as to think she could have come out any better, can't people just be glad along with me that my wife lived! i guess they think if she had wore her belt she would have plowed a pole up to her windshield and jump out talking about the weather but it just shows how submissive everyone has become and how the governments plan for dependance on them and their advice is working. some people think that seatbelts are the holy grail of wreck survival due to bias media coverage and doctored numbers. it gets more discouraging every day to me because it seems were losing. i am starting to think the only way to win is to team up with the motorcycle people. they are many more states without helmet laws than without seatbelt laws so what are they doing? or maybe do the reverse and try to make motorcycles illegal since with or without helmets you wreck your dead. talk about a revolution get the motorcycle people fired up and we would have one and we could ride their coattails and repeal seatbelt laws all at the same time. we have got to get some people mad. george hudgins, eva albama.

Jamaica Journal, Sunday, January 09, 2005:

Seat belt use on the rise

Feature

Between 1996 and 2003, there was an almost 400 per cent increase in the number of Corporate Area motorists who use seat belts, according to the West Indian Medical Journal.

"While the implementation of (seat belt) legislation may have been expected to reduce mortality, morbidity and costs from road traffic accidents, the rate of accidents, injuries and (mortality) has increased," said the report.

The findings of an observational study, conducted jointly by the University Hospital of the West Indies, the Trinidad-based Caribbean Health Research Council, the University of the West Indies' Department of Surgery, Radiology Anesthesia and Intensive Care were published late last year.

The study was aimed at assessing the effect of legislation, introduced in 1999, "on driver and passenger seat belt use and the impact on road traffic accidents in Jamaica". It attributed the high usage of seat belts to the implementation of legislation that introduced penalties for driving without the safety devices (sic).

But less reassuringly, it also found that the rate of accidents on the roads had almost doubled between 1996 and 2003 - moving from 6,868 in 1996 to 12,585 cases in 2003. Additionally, injury cases moved from 3,031 in 1996 to 4041 in 2003, while traffic deaths climbed from 342 in 1996 to 391 in 2003....

According to the study, seat-belt usage by private motor vehicle drivers rose from 21.1 per cent in 1996 to a high of 81.2 per cent in 2003. Meanwhile, usage by front seat passengers moved from 13.6 per cent to 74 per cent.

Macomb Journal, April 20, 2005

No seat belt saved driver

By Stacey Creasy, Editor

MACOMB - Freda Prentice, 83, of Macomb, was injured in a one-car crash on Candy Ln., north of County Road 1050 North. Prentice is in McDonough District Hospital with some broken ribs, a fractured collarbone, cuts and bruises. She is expected to make a complete recovery even though the road back to better health will be a long one.

The accident occurred about 9:45 a.m. Prentice was north bound on Candy Ln. when she went off the edge of the road. Investigators claim Prentice overcorrected and lost control of her 1997 Chevy Lumina. The car went off the road and rolled several times before coming to a stop in the ditch.

Prentice told her husband Paul she was worried about a vehicle that was following her too closely. When she tried to pull over to the side

of the road Prentice lost control of the car. She attempted to get back on the road, but that is when she overcorrected and crashed the car.

Paul said if Prentice would have stayed on the side of the road she may have struck the concrete bridge.

When the car left the roadway Prentice was tossed around and fell on the seat. As the car rolled, it smashed the top of the car down. By the time the car came to a stop in the ditch, the top was crushed down to the level of the seat.

"One of the police officers said if she would have been wearing her seat belt, she probably would have been killed," Paul said.

Received by e-mail, February 15, 2005:

Summary of Article in Grand Forks Herald:

Published on February 12, 2005, Page 05, Grand Forks Herald (ND)

UPS Driver Fails to Yield

A UPS driver was critically injured Friday when his brown truck broadsided a pickup truck when he failed to yield at a rural North Dakota intersection. According to the North Dakota Highway Patrol, Steven Reidburn, 53, Jamestown, N.D., was eastbound on a gravel road southwest of Fessenden, N.D., at 1:25 p.m. Friday. He failed to yield at the intersection with Wells County Road 4, a blacktop, 6 miles west and 13 miles south of Fessenden, which is between Carrington and Harvey.

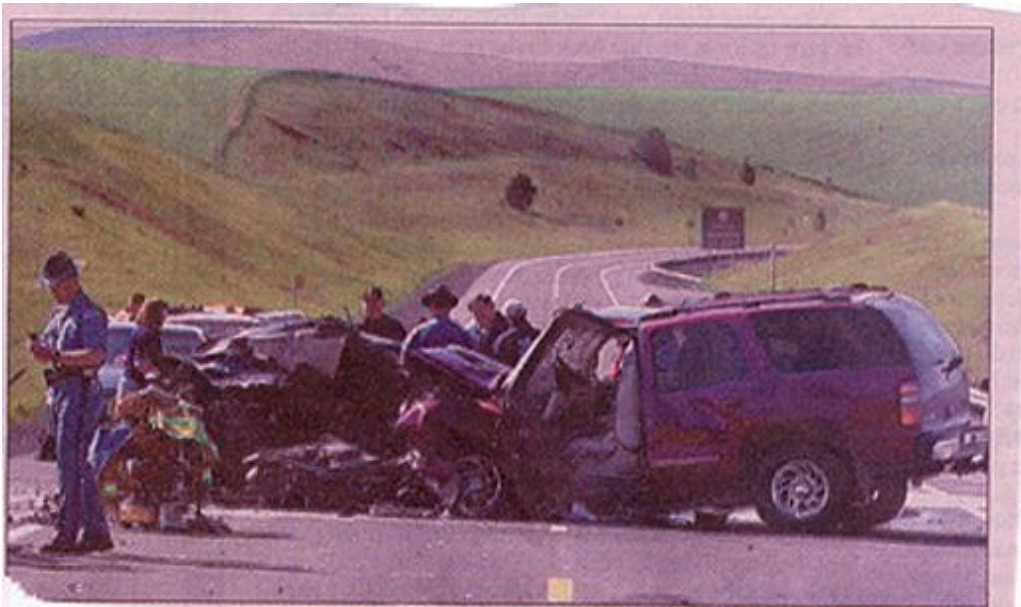
(Note: The UPS driver was wearing a seatbelt and was critically injured. The person he hit was not wearing a seatbelt and was not seriously hurt.)

Courtesy of WABC, New York, October 10, 2004

A fiery crash, a desperate rescue and three heroes. It happened a few hundred yards from the Gil Hodges Memorial Bridge in Brooklyn. Eye Witness News reporter Ken Rosario is at Kings County Hospital in Flatbush with the story. A retired firefighter, a deputy inspector with the NYPD and a good samaritan all teamed up to try to save lives. At about 11:00 p.m. Saturday night a pickup truck from out of state lost control on Flatbush Avenue, near the Belt Parkway. The passenger was almost thrown from the wreck. Moments later, the NYPD deputy inspector stopped to help. The passenger was trying to get out of the now burning truck but his seatbelt was jammed. A good samaritan....happened to be driving by. He pulled over and used a knife to cut the seatbelt and helped drag the passenger to safety just as the truck exploded. Just then, the retired fire fighter also stopped and grabbed a tree limb to break the truck's back window to vent the flames because he realized the driver was still in the truck. But the driver was not able to make it out. The former fire fighter burned his hands as he tried to save the driver but it was to no avail. The retired firefighter was so distraught that he said that during all his years as a firefighter he spent his time saving lives and he felt horrified that he couldnt save this one.The passenger was taken to Kings County Hospital. His condition is not known but the retired firefighter says he's expected to make it.

Spokane, WA. Spokesman-Review, May, 2004: "A Spokane woman who turned 21 earlier this month was killed Friday morning in a head-on collision on U.S. Highway 195 at Rosalia. Stephanie Calvert's compact Ford Focus was crushed when it collided at 7.25 a.m. with a Chevrolet Tahoe sport utility vehicle driven by Shelley Solberg, 52, of Colbert. Calvert died at the scene. Solberg and two 14 year old boys in her vehicle were taken to Sacred Heart Medical Center.....Solberg was in satisfactory condition.... but the two boys...were in serious condition in pediatric intensive care."

Note: This was a real head-on collision and shows us how far removed the claims of the seatbelt proponents are from reality. Nobody was "thrown through the windshield". Nobody was "ejected". Further information was obtained from a photograph of the accident and a telephone conversation with a reliable eye witness at the scene: 1. The Ford Focus was so badly crushed there was nothing left of it but a mass of twisted metal. It was even hard to tell it had ever been a car. What was left of the occupant looked like something out of a butcher shop. Do the seatbelt proponents seriously believe it made any difference whether poor Stephanie Calvert was wearing a seatbelt? 2. In spite of the maximum difference in size between the two vehicles, the Chevy Tahoe passenger compartment was also partly crushed. (Isn't it interesting that this never seems to happen in the "dummy tests"). The two boys, both of whom were wearing seatbelts, were listed in serious condition in intensive care. According to the eye-witness, who was there in a professional capacity, all the injuries which the boys received were caused by their seatbelts. The witness could not say if the driver, Mrs. Solberg, was wearing a seatbelt. Given the fact that she was not seriously injured, it seems unlikely. The fact that the steering wheel was driven against her chest when the vehicle was stove in, points up, once again, the absurdity of the seatbelt theory. Notice they had to remove the Tahoe dashboard and pry the steering column upward to extract Mrs Solberg.



ANAHEIM - A preliminary investigation has revealed a 1987 Mercedes was traveling at about 90 mph before it flew off Santa Ana Canyon Road last Friday, killing the driver, Justin Simpkins, and seriously injuring his older brother.

The speed limit on that section of Santa Ana Canyon Road in Anaheim Hills is 45 mph. Ryan Simpkins, 22, who was a passenger in his brother's black Mercedes 560, remains hospitalized at UCI Medical Center in Orange.

Justin Simpkins, died shortly after he lost control of his Mercedes last Friday on Santa Ana Canyon Road - not far from Canyon High School where he graduated from in 2005.

"Witnesses on the roadway indicated that it appeared the Mercedes was racing another car," said Sgt. Rick Martinez of the Anaheim Police Department.

The Mercedes careened off the road and slammed into a telephone pole. Justin Simpkins was trapped and was pulled from the car by a police officer and a passerby just before it burst into flames. Ryan Simpkins, was ejected from the car, Martinez said.

The driver of the other vehicle, a gray sedan, stopped after the crash and was questioned by investigators. His identity has not been released and he has not been arrested.

The two drivers had been friends since high school.

Investigators are continuing to interview witnesses, Martinez said.

Martinez said there have been other speed related accidents in the area: "When there is a collision it's usually a high-impact collision because people are driving double the speed limit."

Last Friday's crash occurred about 100 yards from where Esperanza High School cross country coach Ryan Bousquet, 25, of Yorba Linda died after his motorcycle slid off the road and slammed into a guardrail in August. The investigation revealed Bousquet was traveling at 65 mph, Martinez said.

Comment: Notice that the driver, who was "trapped" in the car, was killed, while the passenger, who was ejected, survived. While the story does not say why he was "trapped", whether by his seatbelt or by the vehicle being crushed, it hardly matters in this case because when you hit a telephone pole at 90 mph the vehicle is so badly crushed that there is no way you can survive in the car, with or without a seatbelt. Had he not been crushed, however, the force of the seatbelt on his body would have been enough to almost cut him in two. Notice that the victim was pulled from the car just before it burst into flames. In this type of crash, the impact almost invariably jams the seatbelt buckle, so that had the driver survived the crash and had rescuers not been at hand in a timely fashion, he would have been burned alive.

From www.cnn.com, October 18, 2007:

Two children trapped in a sinking minivan are alive thanks to the efforts of five good Samaritans who jumped into a retention pond near Walt Disney World and saved them. "The van completely became submerged. It was really, really scary," one of the rescuers said. "For the quick reaction that these good Samaritans had, they saved these kids' lives," Florida Highway Patrol Trooper Kim Miller told CNN affiliate WKMG-TV of Orlando. "It is anyone's worst nightmare. We know what can happen if kids are under water." The Nissan Quest plunged into the pond off U.S. Highway 192 on Wednesday afternoon when a spare tire blew out, causing the driver to lose control, the highway patrol said. The westbound van was carrying five people. The driver, Ermarie Otereo, 24, and two passengers, Sulane Suero, 21, of Orlando, and Ivan Rivera, 6, of Kissimmee, were able to escape the submerged minivan, WKMG reported. But Niomy Rivera, 3, of Kissimmee and Derek Rivera, 1, of Kissimmee, were trapped under water for as long as seven minutes, the station said. Witnesses said Otereo was screaming for help, saying her babies were in the car, The Associated Press reported. The good Samaritans saw the sinking van and jumped in to save the children. "I screamed for a knife ... and I went in and cut up the seat belts on the car seat to get the baby out," rescuer Elliott Ramos told WKMG. "I was feeling the baby's body. He was motionless, so I'm trying to put my hand underneath the belt, so I could cut it without injuring the baby," Ramos told CNN affiliate WESH-TV of Orlando. "I was just fearing for somebody's life ... I was praying to God, please let these babies live, please let these babies live. Thank God we got them in time." Another rescuer, Robert Wright, told

WESH he was on his way to pick up his children when he saw the van go out of control and plunge into the pond. Wright said he didn't think twice about stopping to help. "The mother was yelling that her babies were in the car," Wright said. "The van completely became submerged. It was really, really scary. You couldn't see anything. It was totally black underwater. We couldn't get the seat belts loose from the kids. It was pretty bad," Wright said. All of the occupants were taken to hospital, AP reported. Niomy and Derek Rivera were in critical condition at Florida Hospital South on Thursday

Note: Because the children were trapped under water by their seatbelts for as long as seven minutes it is likely that they suffered permanent brain damage, even if they survived.

(seatbelt victims continued on next page).

SOME SEAT BELT VICTIMS VII

Bradley Woodward - East Anglia Daily Telegraph, 6 Nov., 1997 Back seat child passenger . Following collision, head injuries requiring intensive care.

Liam Coffey - Wolverhampton Express & Star, 14 May, 1999 Trapped under water with seatbelts binding his feet. Given kiss-of-life under water. Taken to intensive care.

Two cases from earlier years:

Colin Webb & Sheila Webb - Daily Mail 18 March, 1985 Collision with car being chased by police. Onlookers cut seat belts to get them out while police continued chase. Colin died.

Two unnamed men - Sunday Express 10 November 1985 Hanging in seatbelts in over- turned car, alive but bleeding. Rescued by passing fireman and ambulanceman.

Caroline Thompson & her unborn child - Eastern Daily Press, mid March, 1992. Pressure from seat belt or sudden deceleration after collision caused fatal injuries to both.

Three cases from USA :

Gabriel Stimson - New York State newspaper. Cardiac arrest caused by seat belt's shoulder harness.

Janet Simpson - Sunday Express, 5 May 1985 Pinned by seat belt between two front seats. Broken ribs and other severe injuries.

Un-named woman, personal account, Autumn, 1986. Following collision, seat belt pulled her intestines and diaphragm up to her shoulder.

These cases are culled from national papers and a tiny proportion of local papers, so obviously are just the tip of the iceberg.

Only newspaper reports which specifically mention a seat belt are included. In dozens of other cases, not included, the seat belt can be assumed to be blameworthy or to have made matters worse; in such cases the words "seat belt" tend to be omitted.

SOME SEATBELT VICTIMS V

Kerry Lee (aged 10 months) Thrown forward in baby seat in minor shunt and choked on vomit. Wolverhampton Express & Star, 26 Sept 1990; Croyden Advertiser & Sevenoaks Chronicle, 27 Sept 1990

Craig Lacey - Tapped by belt when car overturned in water-filled dyke. Died. Kentish Express, 7 Feb, 1991.

Teresa Garner - Seatbelt injuries caused internal bleeding 15 days after crash. Died. Daily Telegraph & Guardian, 2 July, 1991.

Unnamed man and woman - Trapped by belts when car overturned into River Ouse. Both died. Independent, Daily Post and Daily Express, 2 Jan, 1992.

Rikki Jardine - Trapped by belt when car plunged into pond. Died. Daily Mail, 10 April, 1992.

Michaela Mooney - Mother failed (in effort) to undo her seatbelt when vehicle was burning. Died. Wolverhampton Express and Star, 16 Dec 1992 and 12 June 1993.

Harriet Mead (aged 22 months) - Drowned. Mother couldn't undo safety straps when car overturned in 6 feet of water. TheTimes, 6 Feb 1993

Pamela Hillier - Crushed against her seatbelt when car was hit at high speed from behind. The Times, 6 Feb, 1993.

Christopher and Matthew Key (4 month-old twins) - Christopher thrown from baby seat, Matthew stayed strapped in his. Both died of fractured skulls. Car hit another side-on. Daily Telegraph, 10 Sept. 1993 and 3 Dec 1993.

Mary Mullett - Died after minor road crash. Seatbelt caused bowel injury. Wolverhampton Express and Star, 25 Feb 1994

William Gill - Head-on collision. seatbelt ripped from mounting. Died of multiple injuries. Wolverhampton Express and Star, 21 April, 1994

SOME SEATBELT VICTIMS VI

The Times, 6 Sept, 1994 - Guy Wace (4) and Alicia Wace (11 months). Strapped in child seats in rear and suffered fatal injuries from side impact.

TV Quick (based on a programme) 19 - 25 Nov. 1994 - Jacky Ball. Car overturned into shallow water. Seatbelt would not release.

Kent and Sussex Courier, 2 Dec 1994 - Jo (aged 27). Spinal and multiple internal injuries when strapped in rear seat and luggage came through back seat in accident. Died.

Today, 24 May 1995 - Two British Legion coach passengers - Hanging from seatbelts in overturned coach and drowned in culvert water. (Another eight died in this much reported accident but Today was the only British paper to mention seatbelt drownings).

Kent and Sussex Courier, 14 July, 1995. Lauren MacInnes (5) - Belted in back seat and could not be rescued when car hit tree and burst into flames. (Think about this - the child screaming as it she slowly burns to death because of being trapped by the seatbelt and the relatives having to watch in helpless horror).

Daily Express, 3 Sept 1996 - Tim Phillips, his three children aged 4, 2, and 4 months plus another child aged 3. Vehicle rolled into 15 feet of water. Mrs. Phillips and a friend dived into the water and "managed to free" some of the children (from their seatbelts) but were drowned themselves.

Daily Express, 1 Oct 1996 - Sian Hoole, aged 5. Stationary car burst into flames when hit by lorry. Mother tried but failed to rescue child. (Unable to get seatbelt open).

The Express, 12 Nov 1998 - Clare Bear - Severe injuries from accident during which seatbelt wrapped around her neck. In wheel chair permanently.

Seatbelt victims

Sean Barber	Trapped by belt when car went into river. Rescued as water reached chin.	Daily Mail, 12 Feb., 1983
Jason O'Connor	Drowned when car went into canal.	Greenford & Northolt Gazette, 3-6-83
Karen Anderson	Drowned when car overturned into water-filled ditch	Evening Standard, 10-3-83
Terence Hudson	Badly burned in car fire. Seatbelt release jammed.	Daily Mirror, 2-3-83
Carols McKenna	Drowned. Car overturned in Fenland dyke.	Eastern Daily Press, 30-6-83
Robert Merchant	Escaped from car when seatbelt burned through but died from burns.	Birmingham Post, 24-4-84.
Reginald Meggie	Died in burning car. Rescuers could not release belt.	Buckinghamshire Advertiser, 5-12-84.
Unnamed woman, aged 73, from Watford.	Trapped by belt when car went into R. Lyde. Rescued as water reached her face.	Daily Express, 2-10-84
Ian Hunter	Trapped by belt as car overturned in flooded field. Rescued by PC who held his head above water.	Daily Telegraph, 13-2-84
Karen Bilsborough	Trapped by belt after car crashed on to railway line.	Sunday Express, 28-10-84
Lynn Fearon	Died in burning car. Rescuer could not release belt.	Retford Times, 13-4-84.
Peter Swearbrick	Escaped from burning car as belt burned through.	Sunday Express, 10-2-85
Timothy Weedon	Cut from belt. Car overturned in flooded river.	Weekend, 21-8-85 & Sun. Telegraph, 25-11-84
Paul Baxter	Trapped by seatbelt when car overturned into canal.	Standard, 1-2-84

Unnamed woman, age 33, from Plymouth.	Drowned when car overturned into R. Plym.	Daily Mail & Daily Express, 9-4-85.
Susan Ions & Richard Jones	Drowned when car overturned into R. Wey.	Daily Express & Daily Telegraph, 10-9-84
David Thomas	Windpipe pierced in accident when belt pressed top of anorak zip into throat.	Henley Standard, 30-11-84
Christopher Smith	Went through windscreen. Neck & throat almost sliced in two as seatbelt pulled him back.	Wolverhampton Express & Star, 4-3-85
Katie Robinson (age 6 months)	Rescued with difficulty after car overturned in pond	Daily Star & Daily Mali, 3-1-85
Sandra Garrett	Trapped by belt in fire when ignition was switched on.	Wolverhampton Express & Star, 18-5-85.
Lynne Thompson	Drowned when car went into lake	Sun. Telegraph 8-12-85 & Sheffield Morning Telegraph 9-12-85
James Steele	Impact of belt on chest may have caused death, said coroner.	Newbury Weekly News, 4-4-85.
Daniel Oliffa	Trapped in burning car. Died.	Croydon Advertiser, 13-12-85.
John Clapham	Trapped by belt in burning car. Belt cut by rescuer.	Daily Telegraph, 29-10-85
Frank Kirk	Car overturned in flooded dyke. Cut from belt just before drowning.	Sunday Express, 29-10-85.
Monica Wilton	Awarded damages for effect on breast of belt in accident.	Daily Mail, 18-5-85
Unnamed man & woman	Observed burning to death as they struggled to undo belts during M6 pile-up.	Sun, 22-10-85, & Daily Telegraph, 23-10-85
Ann Turner	With leg broken, hung suspended by belt until rescued after car had overturned.	Daily Express, 19-5-86
Paul Amer	During crash seatbelt triggered seat reclining lever. Died of trauma to the brain.	Watford & W. Herts. Review, 17-7-86

Thomas Hardy	Throat cut by belt when involved in crash.	Leamington Spa Courier, 24-4-86
Unnamed man	Trapped by belt in car fire. Rescued by Roger Cooper of Bliston.	Wolverhampton Express & Star, 31-7-86
Mark Grimmer	Rescued from blazing car by man who cut the belt.	Beccles & Bungay Journal, 10-10-86
Anne Harris	Trapped by belt in blazing car. Died.	Daily Express, 12-3-87
Peter Sturton	Internal injuries caused by impact of belt. Died.	Croydon Advertiser, 26-12-86
Asbe Tankaria (age 20 months)	Trapped in seatbelt when parked car burst into flames. 40% burns.	Daily Express, 19-3-87.
Ronald Meredith	Impact on belt points pulled him into damaged metal. Died.	Walsall Observer, 15-5-87.
Tanya Raweon (age 4)	Car burst into flames after ignition switch-on. Mother unable to release child's belt.	London E. Standard 14-8-87; Daily Express, 15-8-87
Unnamed man	Asphyxiating in overturned car & hanging by the belt.	Daily Telegraph, Dec.87
Hr. Howell, his father-in-law & mother-in-law.	Trapped in belts in burning car. All three died.	Daily Express,31-12-87
Mark Dolby	Doctors feared seatbelt caused injury to transplanted heart lungs and liver.	Daily Mirror, 21-1-88
James Arnold & Hilde Arnold	Trapped by belts when car burst into flames after collision. Both died.	Birmingham Evening Mail 27-1-88 & Lichfield Mercury 29-1-88.
Leonard Steer	Head-on collision. Chest crushed by belt. Died	Wolverhampton Express & Star 20-2-88
Brian Saggars	Semi-conscious and choking on seatbelt after accident.	Worthing Guardian 25-2-88
Michael Beeforth (age 9)	Spinal cord broken in accident when younger although strapped to back seat. Lower body paralysed. Awarded £575,000 damages.	Daily Telegraph 28-4-88

Geoffrey Cosserat	Trapped by belt in overturned car emitting smoke and leaking petrol. Rescued by passing gardener using knife.	Daily Express & Daily Telegraph 28-5-88
Joan Jones (age 68)	Hanging for 10 mins in overturned car with petrol leaking over her. Rescued by firemen.	Sunday Express 29-5-88
Susan Jones & three daughters: Michelle (15), Colecte (12), Siobhan (9)	Incinerated beyond recognition in car fire. Heat forced back police who had cut Mr. Jones from his seat with a Stanley knife.	Daily Express 18-8-88
Gordon McKandie	Trapped by belt when car plunged into river. Rescued.	Sunday Express 5-3-89
Louise Bumford	Trapped by belt in submerged car. Breathed from air pocket until rescued.	Daily Mail, D.Express, & D. Telegraph 14-3-89
Clive Exton	Seathelt ruptured spleen in accident. Collapsed 8 days later & died.	Today & D. Telegraph 20-4-89
Sarah Rothwell (5) and Lucy Rothwell (7)	Sarah died from broken back Leamington Spa & Lucy from broken neck when parents' car hit on rear side by another car.	Observer 30-11-89
Kevin Brady	Trapped by seatbelt when car plunged into canal. Water up to chin when rescued.	Wolverhampton Express & Star 15-12-89. Also D. Express 16-12-89.
Grant Ellis	Died in post-crash fire. Rescuers trying to cut belt driven back by heat.	Wolverhampton Express & Star 27-1-90.
Mr. Bharwaj & Mrs. Bharwaj	Collision between Mini and Escort. Escort occupants injured on shoulders & hips by seatbelts.	Wolverhampton Express & Star 4-5-90
Susan & Handy Nicholls	Suspended upside-down by belts after car overturned. Rib & back injuries.	Wolverhampton Express & Star 11-10-90

John Blamchflower	Suffered unspecified "seatbelt injuries" in junction collision.	Wolverhampton Express & Star 11-10-90
Handy Walker	Lost unborn twins through stomach injuries caused by seatbelt.	Daily Mail 14-1-91
Teresa Garner (20)	Injuries caused by belt caused internal bleeding. Died 15 days after crash. (Birmingham inquest report)	Daily Telegraph 2-7-91
Caroline Thompson (31)	Pregnant. Died from possible belt injuries in "turning right" RTA.	Eastern Daily Press & London E. Standard, March 92.
Rik Jardine	Lost control. Went over bridge into water. Trapped by belt. Drowned.	Daily Mail 10-4-92
Pamela Hillier (60)	Crushed against belt in Ford Sierra when hit from behind at 90 m.p.h. Bournemouth Coroner.	Times, 4-3-93

NOTE. These cases have been gathered from press reports sent in by individuals, so are only the "tip of the iceberg".

Only reports which specifically mention the seatbelt have been included in this list. In many other press reports the seatbelt could be assumed to be blameworthy or to have made matters worse.

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May they rest in peace

and

**May God forgive those
who caused their death**