

EVERYTHING TRAFFIC SAFETY

ABOUT THEWISDRIVE ([HTTP://WWW.THEWISDRIVE.COM/ABOUT-THEWISDRIVE/](http://www.thewisedrive.com/about-thewisedrive/))

1 COMMENT

But what about specific scenarios, like a vehicle that ends up submerged? Despite the urban legends to the contrary, seat belt use still increases your likelihood of survival. According to a study by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (<http://www-esv.nhtsa.dot.gov/Proceedings/22/files/22ESV-000170.pdf>), just over half of all people killed in crashes involving vehicle submersion were not wearing a seat belt. (Remember, they only make up 5 percent of the drivers.)

Supposedly, seat belts trap occupants in submerged cars, causing drowning. The reality though, is that most cars that end up under water started as single vehicle roll-over crashes. Seat belts are critical to surviving a roll-over crash and increase the probability that the occupant is still conscious and able to physically escape the submerged vehicle. Again, seat belts with the win, this time at 10-to-1 odds.

One more bit of data, just to be clear on the benefit of seat belts. Back in the '90s, when some states were beginning to establish primary seat belt laws, the states with those laws had compliance rates 12 points higher than states with secondary seat belt laws. That increase in compliance coincided with a 21 percent decrease in traffic fatalities (<http://www.nhtsa.gov/About+NHTSA/Traffic+Techs/current/Primary+Enforcement+of+Seat+Bel+t+Use+Laws+Saves+Lives+and+Reduces+Injuries>) for those states.


But what about the argument that it only affects the people who choose not to wear it? This is just a myth perpetuated by people who can't see beyond themselves. Injuries and fatalities that could have been prevented through seat belt use impact the first responders, the hospital staff, the friends and family of the victim, and every citizen that contributes tax dollars to fund medical services. I suppose someone could create a system where we leave seat belt use to individual choice and only provide emergency medical services to people who never break a safety rule, but that sounds more like the subplot of a dystopian sci-fi than a community I'd want to live in.

Finally, one more incentive to wearing your seat belt: May 23 starts the two-week national Click It or Ticket campaign aimed at encouraging everyone to wear their seat belt on every trip. Officers in Washington will be focusing on compliance. Save yourself \$136; buckle up and drive wise.

Share this:

 (<http://www.thewisedrive.com/why-are-seat-belts-mandatory/?share=twitter>)

 (<http://www.thewisedrive.com/why-are-seat-belts-mandatory/?share=facebook>)



 (<http://www.thewisedrive.com/why-are-seat-belts-mandatory/?share=google-plus-1>)

Related

How Much Traffic Enforcement Is Enough? (<http://www.thewisedrive.com/m/how-much-traffic-enforcement-is-enough/>)
February 29, 2016
In "Road Rules"

Passengers and ID (<http://www.thewisedrive.com/passengers-and-id/>)
January 22, 2016
In "Road Rules"

Kids in Cars - Where to Put Them (<http://www.thewisedrive.com/kids-in-cars-where-to-put-them/>)
December 17, 2015
In "Road Rules"

 ROAD RULES (<http://www.thewisedrive.com/category/road-rules/>)  ROAD RULES (<http://www.thewisedrive.com/tag/road-rules/>), SEAT BELTS (<http://www.thewisedrive.com/tag/seat-belts/>), TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT (<http://www.thewisedrive.com/tag/traffic-enforcement/>)



THEWISEDRIVE

MORE POSTS (<http://www.thewisedrive.com/author/ddahlwtsc-wa-gov/>)

PREVIOUS ARTICLE
WHO SETS THE SPEED LIMITS?
(<http://www.thewisedrive.com/who-sets-the-speed-limits/>)



GRILLING HIGH (<http://www.thewisedrive.com/grilling-high/>)

(<http://www.thewisedrive.com/grilling-high/>)
1 COMMENT



DO RED CARS GET MORE SPEEDING TICKETS? (<http://www.thewisedrive.com/do-red-cars-get-more-speeding-tickets/>)

(<http://www.thewisedrive.com/do-red-cars-get-more-speeding-tickets/>)
1 COMMENT



WHY ARE SEAT BELTS MANDATORY? (<http://www.thewisedrive.com/why-are-seat-belts-mandatory/>)

(<http://www.thewisedrive.com/why-are-seat-belts-mandatory/>)
NO COMMENTS



FENDER OFFENDERS (<http://www.thewisedrive.com/fender-offenders/>)

(<http://www.thewisedrive.com/fender-offenders/>)
NO COMMENTS



IMPAIRED DRIVING: ALCOHOL VS. DRUGS (<http://www.thewisedrive.com/impaired-driving-alcohol-vs-drugs/>)

(<http://www.thewisedrive.com/impaired-driving-alcohol-vs-drugs/>)
NO COMMENTS



TURN SIGNALS AND TURN LANES (<http://www.thewisedrive.com/turn-signals-and-turn-lanes/>)

(<http://www.thewisedrive.com/turn-signals-and-turn-lanes/>)
NO COMMENTS

and
turn-lanes/)

LATEST VIDEO

How to get a distracted ...  



CATEGORIES

PSA Smash Up
(<http://www.thewisedrive.com/category/psa-smash-up/>)

Road Rules
(<http://www.thewisedrive.com/category/road-rules/>)

Traffic Nerd
(<http://www.thewisedrive.com/category/traffic-nerd/>)

Uncategorized
(<http://www.thewisedrive.com/category/uncategorized/>)

LEAVE A REPLY

Your email address will not be published. Required fields are marked *

COMMENT

NAME *

EMAIL *

WEBSITE

POST COMMENT

☐ NOTIFY ME OF FOLLOW-UP COMMENTS BY EMAIL.

☐ NOTIFY ME OF NEW POSTS BY EMAIL.

May 2016
(<http://www.thewisedrive.com/2016/05/>)

April 2016
(<http://www.thewisedrive.com/2016/04/>)

March 2016
(<http://www.thewisedrive.com/2016/03/>)

February 2016
(<http://www.thewisedrive.com/2016/02/>)

January 2016
(<http://www.thewisedrive.com/2016/01/>)

December 2015
(<http://www.thewisedrive.com/2015/12/>)

SUBSCRIBE TO BLOG

SUBSCRIBE



(<http://wtsc.wa.gov/>)

TheWiseDrive is a project of Washington Traffic Safety Commission's Region 11 Target Zero Coalition.