

# Traffic Safety Huddle

## Along for the Ride

Length: 2-5 minutes

### Prepare

- Read the background information.

### Background

- Discussing the topic of riding—not just driving—in cars, trucks and vans matters to the employer for many reasons. **In the event of a crash, an unbuckled employee is a risk for the employer due to lost work time, potential injury costs and turnover.** Employers with fleet trucks with back seats have reported overwhelming numbers of employees that do not buckle in the back. Front seat occupants are more likely to be more injured or killed in a crash when the rear seated occupants are unrestrained.
- **Rear-seat passengers who don't wear seat belts are nearly eight times more likely to be seriously injured in a crash than those who buckle up.**
- In this Traffic Safety Huddle, employees will learn how to stay safer as passengers by wearing a seat belt and speaking up when a driver is being unsafe.

### Discussion

- **What situations can you think of that include you riding as a passenger in a vehicle?**
  - Some ideas come to mind: share-rides to airports, taxi travel downtown, passenger vans to events or hotels.
  - Other situations might include car pooling in fleet trucks with rear seating or grabbing lunch with coworkers.
- Among **adults who admit to not always using safety belts in the back seat**, 4 out of 5 surveyed by Insurance Institute for Highway Safety say short trips or traveling by taxi or ride-hailing service are times they don't bother to use the belt.

**28% of rear-seated passengers do not buckle up in the back seat.**

## Along for the Ride

### Questions

#### What are some things to keep in mind when you are planning to hire a share ride?

- Allow plenty of time to arrive so the driver doesn't feel pressured to speed or run a stop sign or red light.
- Buckle up (every ride, every seat, every time) and remind others to do the same.
- Minimize potential distractions for driver.
- Plan the route ahead and encourage the driver to stay off their phone while the vehicle is moving.
- Speak up about obeying speed limits and following rules of the road.
- Cancel the ride and request a new driver if the driver will not put on their seatbelt.

#### What other safety precautions should the rider be alerted to when accepting a ride?

- Confirm that the driver and vehicle match what the app shows.
- Make sure your seat belt works and buckle up.
- Place your bags or cargo in the trunk or secure them on the floor.
- Don't get in the car if anything feels unsafe.

### Optional discussion

#### National Highway Traffic Safety Administration tips for driving a large passenger van

If time allows, discuss passenger van safety using the fact sheet found at this link: [https://www.nhtsa.gov/sites/nhtsa.dot.gov/files/documents/13699\\_15-passenger\\_van\\_factsheet\\_english\\_060418\\_v3a\\_tag.pdf](https://www.nhtsa.gov/sites/nhtsa.dot.gov/files/documents/13699_15-passenger_van_factsheet_english_060418_v3a_tag.pdf)

### Summary

- Helping employees understand that work-related safe driving practices spill over into safe riding practices everywhere else assists you in keeping them safe.
- Being a rider that speaks up and stays aware of safe driving behaviors means buckling up for every ride, every seat, every time.
- All vehicles should be maintained and cargo secured to prevent unintentional injuries and deaths.

#### Cites:

<https://www.ihs.org/api/datastoredocument/status-report/pdf/52/5?>  
[https://www.nhtsa.gov/sites/nhtsa.dot.gov/files/documents/13699\\_15-passenger\\_van\\_factsheet\\_english\\_060418\\_v3a\\_tag.pdf](https://www.nhtsa.gov/sites/nhtsa.dot.gov/files/documents/13699_15-passenger_van_factsheet_english_060418_v3a_tag.pdf)



### Planning a ride share



Allow for plenty of time to arrive at an event.



Buckle up (every ride, every seat, every time).



Minimize driver distractions.



Operate the driver's GPS, radio and cell phone when needed.



Speak up about obeying speed limits and rules of the road.