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**A 3.5-TON RHINO IS CHARGING DIRECTLY TOWARD YOU—WHAT DO YOU DO?**

You jump out of the way, of course—just like any smart individual would. But then why do so many Delawareans still not buckle up *every* time they get into a vehicle as a driver or passenger? If you’re not wearing a seat belt and get into a crash while your vehicle is moving at just 30 mph, the impact feels the same as being rammed by a 3.5-ton charging rhino—at 40 mph, the impact is equivalent to falling from a six-story building.

Currently, seat belt use in Delaware is at an all-time high of 92.5%. This is encouraging news and a huge achievement, but it means that one out of every 10 of your fellow Delawareans—quite possibly your neighbors, friends, family members or even you—is still not wearing a seat belt when driving or riding in a vehicle. And *this* means all those people are putting themselves at greater risk of being ejected during a crash (30 times more likely) or killed in a crash (80% more likely).

This is why [[Organization]] has partnered with the Delaware Office of Highway Safety (OHS) and state police. With your help, we can work to bring the seat belt use rate in Delaware to 100%—and in the process, spare hundreds of families the pain, trauma and costs that come with injuries and deaths caused by vehicle crashes.

A good place for you to start is by “getting straight” on key myths and facts—then sharing your knowledge to encourage others to join you in buckling up and *arriving alive*.

**MYTH:** Seat belts can trap you.

**FACT:** Crashes that involve a vehicle being on fire or submerged in water happen only in .5% of all crashes. In a case like this, you are far more likely to remain conscious if you wear your seat belt, giving yourself the ability to get out of the situation.

**MYTH:** You don’t need seat belts if you are driving slowly or going a short distance.

**FACT:** Most crash fatalities occur within 25 miles of one’s home and at speeds of less than 40 mph.

**MYTH:** Seat belts can injure you in a crash.

**FACT:** While you could get bruises from wearing a seat belt in a crash, your risk of being injured more severely is much higher without seat belts.

**MYTH:** Your car’s airbag provides all the crash protection you need.

**FACT:** Airbags do not provide the same level of protection seat belts do. And the force of an airbag can seriously injure or even kill you if you’re not buckled up.

**MYTH:** Delaware laws require only the driver in a vehicle to be wearing a seat belt.

**FACT:** Everyone in the vehicle must be buckled up properly. If not, the driver will be held at fault and issued a ticket. The penalty is $25, but with court costs and fees, the ticket will be $83.50.

The bottom line is, wearing your seat belt lowers your chances of being injured—reducing risk of moderate-to-critical injury for front-seat occupants by 50% in cars and 65% in small trucks—and saves lives. It is the law. It is the smart thing to do. And it is the responsible thing to insist on for you and every person occupying a vehicle with you.

Discover more motivational information at [*ArriveAliveDE.com/BuckleUp*](https://www.arrivealivede.com/Buckle-Up/), share what you’ve learned and join your [[Organization]] community in being stewards of safer driving throughout Delaware. And remember, first and foremost, lead by example and wear your seat belt *every* time!