



How many  
of these  
**Fairy Tales**  
have you told?

"I don't need a safety belt  
when I'm traveling at low speeds  
or going on a short trip."



## **You can't believe every story lurking around these days.**

The truth is that all driving can be dangerous.

More than 80 percent of all crashes occur at speeds less than 40 mph. Deaths involving non-belted occupants of cars have been recorded at as low as 12 mph. That's about the speed you'd be driving in a parking lot.

Three out of four crashes causing death occur within 25 miles of home. **Belt up before driving to your local shopping center – just as you would for a long trip.**

**“If I wear a safety belt,  
I might be trapped in a burning  
or submerged car!”**



## **Forget about it!**

Less than one-half of 1 percent of all injury-producing crashes involve fire or submersion. But if fire or submersion does occur, wearing a safety belt can save your life.

If you're involved in a crash without your safety belt, you might be knocked unconscious by striking the interior of your car. Then your chances of getting out of a burning or sinking car would be far less.

You're better off wearing a safety belt at all times in a car. **With safety belts, you're more likely to be unhurt, alert, and able to escape quickly.**

"I might be saved if I'm thrown clear of the car in an accident."



**Whatever!** The fact is that your chances of being killed are almost 25 times greater if you're thrown from the car. The forces in a collision can be enough to throw you as much as 150 feet – about 15 car lengths.

**Safety belts keep you from:**

- ★ crashing through the windshield
- ★ being thrown out the door and tossed through the air
- ★ scraping along the ground
- ★ being crushed by your own car

**In any collision, you're better off being held inside the car by safety belts.**

"Our vehicle has air bags  
so we don't need to use  
our safety belts."



Ye' Ole  
Gingerbread Coffee Hou



## Safety belts and air bags, when used together,

provide the best protection. Safety belts keep you correctly held in place inside the vehicle to protect you in all kinds of crashes.

Air bags will deploy only in frontal, or head-on crashes. Air bags supplement the safety belt to provide additional protection in a serious head-on collision. Also, **wearing a safety belt keeps you in the proper place to benefit from the added protection of the air bag, if it deploys.**



"It takes too much  
time & trouble  
to fasten my  
safety belt."

**Now there's a fairy tale  
that's an earful.**

In reality, fastening your safety belt may take a little time and effort--but it's worth it!

In fact, buckling up takes only about 30 seconds. **That much time and trouble you can live with – if you want to live.**

“When I have a shoulder belt on, I don’t need to fasten my lap belt.”



**During a crash,** a shoulder belt keeps your head and chest from hitting the steering wheel, dashboard, and windshield. The lap belt must be fastened to prevent you from “submarining” in a crash, which means that if you don’t have a lap belt on, you may slide forward under the shoulder belt. The combination of a lap and shoulder belt offers you the maximum amount of safety in the event of a crash.

- ★ **REMEMBER:** To get the best protection and prevent injuries, the **shoulder belt must be worn over the shoulder** and not under the arm. Also, be sure to adjust your **lap belt so it rests low over the hip area.**

"Fairy Tales will live forever. You won't.  
So do all you can to live longer."



**BUCKLE UP!**

**Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr.,**  
Governor

**Michael S. Steele,**  
Lt. Governor



**Maryland Highway Safety Office**

7491 Connelley Drive • Hanover, MD 21076-1702  
410-787-4077 • TTY#: 410-787-####

MARYLAND'S  
**DRIVE TO SURVIVE**

