

VOLTS Newsletter

VALUING OUR LIVES THROUGH SAFETY

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Seatbelts . . . What Is Your Why? — Kirk Stevens

Many of us are old enough to remember going on trips in the good ole' days in "The Family Truckster" and enjoying the ride from any position we wanted inside the vehicle. I spent many a mile in the comfort of the shelf above the back seat next to the back window, on the floor of the car sleeping during a long trip, or standing on the seat next to Dad while going to feed the cows. Those were the days, right? (You youngsters out there will never know such freedom or comfort.)

As with most "good" things, time usually proves something different. Data collected over decades show the overwhelming, undeniable, absolute power of a simple safety belt in preventing serious injury and death. Many lives each year are saved because of seatbelt use. Most people, if not all, personally know someone who has been spared because of seatbelt use.

Isn't it funny though, that we seem to be a lot better at wearing seatbelts off site than we are at work? I know that I have been guilty of this for most of my time at the plant. Is it a habit that we just haven't forced ourselves to make, or are we blatantly disregarding the overwhelming evidence about a seatbelt's effectiveness? Maybe we have some preconceived perceptions about safety belts and their effectiveness.

I believe that all of us want to go home safely at the end of the day for many differing reasons. What is your why for not wearing a seatbelt 100 percent of the time? I challenge every person to evaluate their behavior toward safety belts and make any necessary changes so that everyone can enjoy life to the fullest!

Here is a short quiz to test your knowledge of safety belts, and maybe put to rest a few misconceptions you have about them.

1. In a crash, being thrown from a vehicle
 - a. increases the chance of death or serious injury.
 - b. decreases the chance of death or serious injury.
 - c. has no effect on the chance of death or serious injury.
2. If a vehicle is in a crash and becomes submerged in water, a driver's chances of escaping from the vehicle is
 - a. increased by wearing a safety belt.
 - b. decreased by wearing a safety belt.
 - c. not affected by wearing a safety belt.
3. Safety belts prevent injury
 - a. most often on long trips.
 - b. most often on short trips.
 - c. on all trips.
4. Safety belts prevent injury
 - a. most often in bad weather.
 - b. most often in good weather.
 - c. in all weather conditions.
5. A driver's ability to control the vehicle in an emergency is
 - a. hampered by safety belts.
 - b. improved by safety belts.
 - c. unaffected by safety belts.
6. Besides your own safety, not wearing your safety belt can certainly affect
 - a. your family and loved ones.
 - b. other motorists since wearing a safety belt can help you avoid losing control of your vehicle in a crash.
 - c. all of the above.

Seatbelts . . . What is Your Why? cont.

7. The lap and shoulder belt has been proven to
- hold a driver securely behind the wheel in event of a crash.
 - greatly increase the driver's ability to maintain control of the vehicle.
 - minimize the chance for serious injury or death.
 - all of the above.
8. In a frontal collision occurring at 30 mph, an unbelted person continues to move forward causing him/her to hit frontal interior components (such as the steering wheel, instrument panel, or windshield) at about 30 mph. This is the same velocity as a person falling from the top of a _____ upon impact with the ground.
- thirty-story building
 - three-story building
 - one-story building
9. If a passenger fails to wear a safety belt, the driver's chances of being injured are
- increased.
 - decreased.
 - not affected.

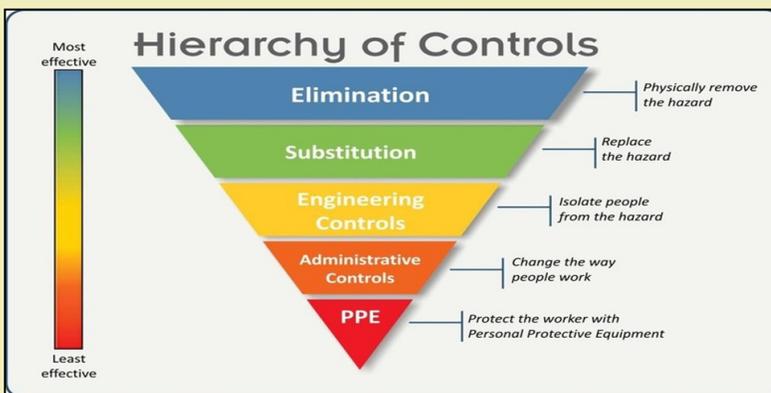
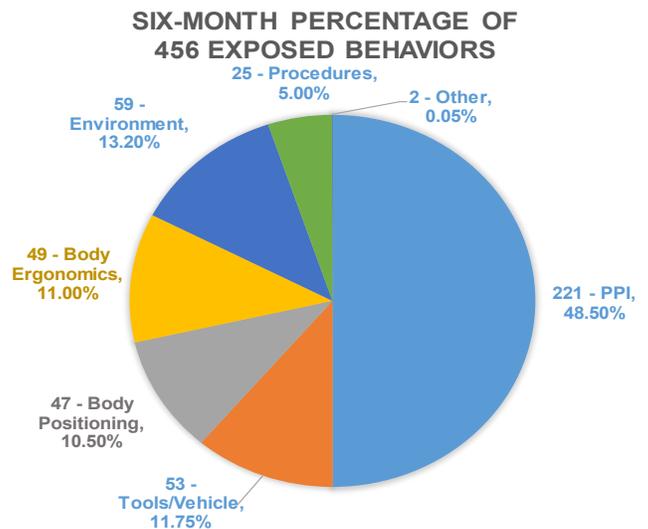
Answers: 1.a, 2.a, 3.c, 4.c, 5.b, 6.c, 7.d, 8.b, 9.a

<https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/sites/fmcsa.dot.gov/files/docs/increasing-safetybelt-usage-manual.pdf>

Exposure is a State of Vulnerability — by Casey Draper

December Report Summary

VOLTS Contact Rate (Performance Incentive Goal is to Remain Above 1)	1.5
Observations Performed	573
Protected Work Behaviors Observed	6,184
Exposed Work Behaviors Observed	55

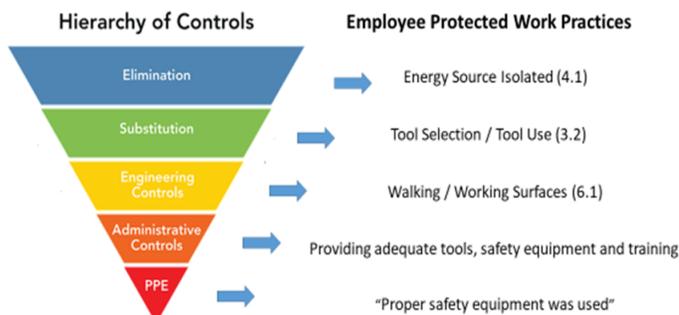


We know that safety does not truly improve unless exposures are identified, then controlled, reduced, or eliminated. Shrink the pool of exposures, and incidents go down. Injury rates can give insight into what is happening in the organization's pool of exposure, but the number and severity of incidents is influenced by an element of luck.

Consider the following: if an organization had 100,000 exposure events, the result could be any number of recordable or reportable injuries from zero to five or more. Zero injuries could be simply the result of a series of lucky outcomes or the effective layers of control in place to protect employees. Regardless, employees were vulnerable to injury with each exposure.

Organizations that are good at safety find ways to limit exposures. They implement procedures or apply engineering solutions that shrink the pool of exposure. Everyone wins when exposures are limited and employees practice safe behaviors.

Task Observed: 10/16/19 Employees Aligning a Sludge Conveyor Belt



Positive Observer Feedback: "This job was performed safely while using proper tools and equipment, employees demonstrated no dangerous behaviors and used proper PPE."