



## BUCKLE UP: UTAH'S NEW LAW

### Upcoming Safety Observances

Free resources are available on the Utah NETS webpage to assist you with ideas to implement in your organization during these observance periods. Visit [UTAH-SAFETYCOUNCIL.ORG](http://UTAH-SAFETYCOUNCIL.ORG) and select *Safety Programs and Resources* to find a full list.

#### June

- National Safety Month
- Ride to Work Day (June 15<sup>th</sup>)

#### August

- Back to School Safety Month
- National Stop on Red Week (Aug 2<sup>nd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>)
- Drowsy Driving Awareness Week (Aug 16<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>)
- Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over National Crackdown (Aug 21<sup>st</sup> - Sept 7<sup>th</sup>)

#### September

- Child Passenger Safety Week (Sept 13<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup>)

Beginning on May 12, 2015, wearing a seat belt became a primary law in Utah (UT Code 41-6a-1803). This means law enforcement can now stop, educate, and cite individuals for driving or riding unbuckled on Utah roads. All vehicle occupants must wear seat belts and children ages 8 and younger must be properly restrained in a car seat or booster seat. The enforcement aspect of this new law is focused on increasing seat belt education to change behavior and save lives.

In 2014 there were 72 unbuckled fatalities, accounting for nearly half of Utah's total roadway fatalities last year (excluding pedestrian, bicyclist and motorcycle fatalities). Observational surveys completed by the Utah Highway Safety Office report 83 percent seat belt usage in Utah. This means the remaining 17 percent of our population continue to drive unbuckled and contribute to nearly half of our roadway fatalities. Utah's new primary seat belt law aims to change these statistics.

When violators are stopped by law enforcement, they will receive instruction on the importance of seat belt use along with an information card that lists seat belt safety statistics including:

- Seat belts are the single most effective traffic safety device for preventing death and injury.
- Seat belts help the driver stay in the driver seat to maintain control of the vehicle.
- In a crash, unbuckled passengers can become a projectile and increase the risk of hurting or killing others in the car by 40 percent.

To further encourage seat belt use, violators who receive a citation will be offered an option to take an online seat belt safety course where, upon completion of the course, a seat belt fine of \$45 will be waived. The online 30-minute course is available through the Utah Safety Council at [UTAH-SAFETYCOUNCIL.ORG](http://UTAH-SAFETYCOUNCIL.ORG) and provides videos, stories and information on seat belt use.



## Gear Up for National Safety Month in June

*What Do You Live For?* Everyone has something they live to see or experience. No matter what your passion is, it's important to make safety a priority and engage in safe behaviors so you can live for what matters to you.

This June, for National Safety Month, the Utah Safety Council is celebrating your passions with the theme of "What I Live For." By sharing personal stories and providing employers and employees with resources such as posters, tip sheets, safety checklists and infographics. The Utah Safety Council, along with all Utah companies can work together on keeping each other safe wherever we may be.

National Safety Month is an annual observance to educate and influence behaviors around the leading causes of preventable injuries and deaths. Each week carries a theme that brings attention to critical safety issues.

The first three weeks will be focusing on the important topics of prescription painkiller abuse, ergonomics, emergency preparedness and slips, trips and falls. Week four focuses on transportation safety.

Driving is one of the most dangerous activities you and your employees do each day. The Utah Safety Council and Utah NETS would like to encourage all organizations to participate in National Safety Month.

Some of the topics covered for Transportation Safety include: speeding, seat belts, fatigue, drunk driving, distracted driving and teen driving.

Visit [UTAHSAFETYCOUNCIL.ORG](http://UTAHSAFETYCOUNCIL.ORG) for materials you can use to engage your employees, co-workers, family and friends in being safe during National Safety Month and throughout the year.

## Safety Videos for Your Safety Meetings

A convenient way to train employees on traffic safety is to use a traffic safety video. However, quality traffic safety training productions can be costly, especially for one-time viewing.

Fortunately, the Utah Safety Council's Safety Media Library includes over 125 traffic safety titles! Topics include seat belt use, defensive driving, distracted driving, impaired driving, seasonal driving and many more. Many of these titles are available in English and Spanish. Members of the Utah Safety Council can check out these titles at no cost.

Organizations can greatly improve their workplace environment by making these presentations an ac-

tive part of their safety programs. Media titles may be reserved up to a year in advance and can be checked out for up to 14 days.

Beginning this year, the Utah Safety Council also has a Streaming Safety Video library. There are over 75 titles related to traffic safety and are accessible through the Utah Safety Council's member only website. Many titles are available in English and Spanish.

For an up-to-date list of Safety Media Library titles, visit [UTAHSAFETYCOUNCIL.ORG](http://UTAHSAFETYCOUNCIL.ORG).

# Apply for the Occupational Seat Belt Award!



Each year, the Utah Network of Employers for Traffic Safety (NETS) and the Utah Safety Council challenge businesses and their employees to increase their seat belt usage.

The Occupational Seat Belt Award is presented to organizations that encourage seat belt use among employees and achieve a 100% usage rate. The benefits gained are numerous. Companies will help save lives, act as a role model for other companies and be recognized for their efforts. Organizations will be presented with an award for their success at the Utah Safety Council's 2015 Annual Awards Luncheon on Friday, August 21, 2015.

## How to Apply:

To qualify for the award, you must conduct two unannounced observational seat belt surveys at least 30 days apart. The first survey will serve as a baseline. The second survey must show a usage rate of 100%. Although it is not necessary to survey all employees, it is important that you observe a large enough sample to substantiate a valid seat belt use rate. In addition to conducting the two seat belt surveys, you must include a detailed summary of activities used to encourage seat belt use at your organization and data collection procedures.

*Applications are due July 1, 2015.* The application forms can be found online under the Safety Programs & Resources section of the Utah Safety Council's website, [UTAHSAFETYCOUNCIL.ORG](http://UTAHSAFETYCOUNCIL.ORG) by selecting "Network of Employers for Traffic Safety."

## What if you don't achieve 100%?:

If your company doesn't achieve a 100% usage rate, we still want to see your survey results! Beginning this year, in addition to the Occupational Seat Belt Award, Utah NETS and the Utah Safety Council will be giving out the Most Improved Seat Belt Usage Award to the company that had the greatest increase in seat belt usage. Please apply regardless of your results! By applying, you will automatically be entered into the running for the Most Improved Seat Belt Usage Award.

Applications may be returned via:

Email: [jwilliams@utahsafetycouncil.org](mailto:jwilliams@utahsafetycouncil.org)

Fax: 801.478.0884

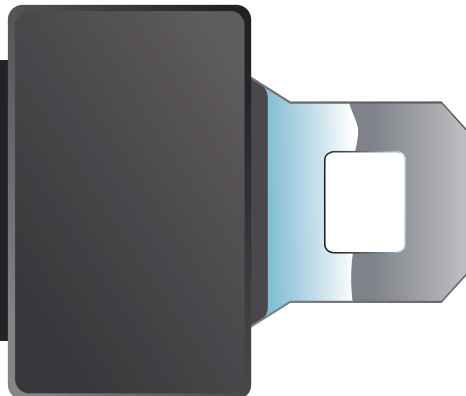
Mail: Utah Safety Council

Attn: Occupational Seat Belt Award

1574 W 1700 S, Ste 2A

Salt Lake City UT 84104

For questions or further information, please contact **Jennifer Williams** at 801.746.SAFE (7233) ext. 303 or at [jwilliams@utahsafetycouncil.org](mailto:jwilliams@utahsafetycouncil.org).





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### NETS NEWS

If you would like to submit items for use in this newsletter, send them to:

**Phone:** 801.746.SAFE (7233) ext. 303  
**Email:** [jwilliams@utahsafetycouncil.org](mailto:jwilliams@utahsafetycouncil.org)

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**Celebrate  
National Safety Month With Us!**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Night Out with the  
Salt Lake Bees  
on June 26<sup>th</sup>**

**First pitch is at 7:05 p.m.**

**The first 2,500 attendees will receive an adult size  
batting helmet.**

Join us for a Picnic in the Park that evening. Purchase your dinner tickets and discounted game tickets at [UTAHSAFETYCOUNCIL.ORG](http://UTAHSAFETYCOUNCIL.ORG).