



STATE OF DELAWARE  
**OFFICE OF HIGHWAY SAFETY**  
[www.ohs.delaware.gov](http://www.ohs.delaware.gov)

To: Corporate Partners  
From: Amanda Horton, Corporate Partner Outreach Coordinator  
Date: May 1, 2020  
Re: May Occupant Protection - Traffic Safety Newsletter

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Dear Corporate Partners,

I hope that everyone and their families are staying safe as we continue through the COVID-19 pandemic. Prior to the pandemic, the Delaware Office of Highway Safety moved locations. We are no longer housed inside the Dover Department of Motor Vehicle Building. Instead, you can find us across the street at the DeIDOT Administration Building - Dover Campus. Please direct any future business mailings to:

Office of Highway Safety  
DeIDOT Building North  
Department of Safety and Homeland Security Entrance  
800 S Bay Road, Suite 2  
Dover, DE 19901

As always, if anyone has any questions or projects that I may be able to assist you with, please feel free to contact me by email at [amanda.horton@delaware.gov](mailto:amanda.horton@delaware.gov). Please continue to keep you and your families safe during this time.

Thank you,

Amanda Horton  
Corporate Partner Outreach Coordinator  
Delaware Office of Highway Safety

One of the safest choices drivers and passengers can make is to buckle up. Many Americans understand the lifesaving value of the seat belt – the national use rate was at 90.7% in 2019. The seat belt use rate in the State of Delaware was 92.5% in 2019. Seat belt use in passenger vehicles saved an estimated 14,955 lives nationally in 2017. It takes three seconds to buckle up and those three seconds may just save your life in the event of a crash.

Buckling up can prevent ejection from a vehicle. Airbags alone are not enough to protect you; in fact, the force of an airbag can seriously injure or even kill you if you're not properly buckled up. Improperly wearing a seat belt, such as putting the strap below your arm, puts you and your passengers at risk in the event of a crash. In 2017 alone, seat belts saved an estimated 14,955 lives nationally and could have saved an additional 2,549 people if they had been wearing seat belts.

For your child to properly fit in a seat belt, he or she must be tall enough to sit without slouching and be able to:

- Keep his or her back against the vehicle seat;
- Keep his or her knees naturally bent over the edge of the vehicle seat; and
- Keep his or her feet flat on the floor.

**Additionally:**

- The lap belt must lie snugly across the upper thighs, not the stomach.
- The shoulder belt should lie snug across the shoulder and chest, and not cross the neck or face.
- Never let a child put the shoulder belt under an arm or behind the back because it could cause severe injuries in a crash.
- No matter what their age, kids are safest in the back seat.

In addition to making sure children are properly buckled in the back seat, it is important to remember that it is not okay to leave children in the car as we approach warmer months. Pediatric vehicular heatstroke happens everywhere. Many think that this only occurs in Southern and Western states that are known to have high temperatures. While they show some of the highest fatalities, there are only two states that can say they have had zero cases of vehicular heatstroke since 1990.

*Please take this month's mailing of posters and flyers and display them in areas for employees and customers to see and learn.*

***Be on the lookout for upcoming campaigns!***

**Motorcycle Safety - June 2020**

*For more information and tools, please visit [arrivealivede.com](http://arrivealivede.com) or call our office at (302) 744.2740.*

*Please continue to share our safety messaging on your social media platforms and email [Amanda.Horton@Delaware.Gov](mailto:Amanda.Horton@Delaware.Gov) with any updated information about your organization. Find us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram at @HighwaySafetyDE. We also ask that any of our partners that previously received materials in a monthly mailing please recycle and re-use them. Thank you!*