

Ontario has a new "Seat Belt Law."

This is what you should know about it.



Last year, 1,304 people were killed in automobile accidents in Ontario. Another 98,673 were injured.

Many of those deaths and injuries could have been avoided, had the persons involved been wearing seat belts.

That is why, effective January 1, 1976, the use of seat belts became mandatory.

In practice, the law is simple:

- You must wear a seat belt and shoulder harness if both are available.
- If your car was manufactured after January 1, 1971, it is illegal to remove the seat belts and they must be in good working order. If seat belts have been removed, they must be replaced.
- Seat belts that are not working must be repaired.

- The shoulder harness is not part of the system in back seats—and need not be installed.
- It is not illegal to carry more passengers than there are seat belts.
- The driver is responsible for all children aged 2 to 15. All adult passengers, 16 and over are responsible for themselves.

There are exceptions:

- (1) Children under two years of age.
- (2) Persons with a medical exemption certificate from their doctor.
- (3) Delivery personnel driving in their drop-off zone at 25 mph or under.
- (4) Rural mail delivery personnel.
- (5) Convertibles do not require shoulder harness.

The fine for breaking the law is from \$20 to \$100, plus costs. But life and health are precious, and accidents which cause death or injury to people, or damage to property, cost far more than the fine.

Whether you are a driver or a passenger, from now on you must wear a seat belt. Your Ontario government asks for your co-operation.

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