



# National Safety Council

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## Position/Policy Statement

### **Automobile Passenger Restraint Systems**

Motor vehicle safety belts beyond reasonable doubt have been proven capable of reducing the risk of serious injury to car occupants involved in collisions and roll overs. Lap-type safety belts alone have shown the capability of reducing fatal and near fatal injury to a major degree. Shoulder belts as supplements to lap-type safety belts have shown the potential of further substantial reduction of serious head injury.

Accordingly, the FHWA has issued regulations applicable to all new cars requiring each seating position to be provided with at least a lap-type safety belt and requiring the driver and outboard front passenger to be provided additionally with a shoulder belt.

The NSC strongly urges all motor vehicle occupants to use these belts on all occasions, including short trips. The Council further urges that the use of these belts be actively promoted by all safety organizations and by all supporting organizations, public and private. The Council further urges that promotion feature proper use with particular attention to adjustment of the lap-belt to take up all slack in the system. The Council also urges that those organizations and individuals publicly identified with traffic safety provide conspicuous leadership by setting a good example by their own actions in demonstrating such use.

*This position statement reflects the opinions of the National Safety Council but not necessarily those of each member organization.*

Approved Executive Committee, Traffic Conference June 24, 1968  
Approved Traffic Conference, September 3, 1968  
Approved by Board of Directors, October 29, 1968



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### Suggested Safety Belt Policy Statement for Voluntary Organizations

Voluntary groups and organizations have been particularly effective in assisting the National Safety Council with the promotion of increased safety belt usage.

The NSC Board of Directors feels this support can be greatly enhanced if each voluntary group or organization would adopt a formal safety belt usage policy.

The NSC Board has formally requested that each conference assist its members in encouraging voluntary groups to adopt such a policy.

The following is a suggested policy statement:

Members of (organization's name), while traveling in a motor vehicle provided with safety belt systems, pledge to use the belts and urge other occupants in the vehicle to use such systems.