

Don't get MOUSETRAPPED!



The seatbelt system was introduced in passenger cars to restrain the driver in a high speed collision – preventing him from hitting the steering wheel or going through the windshield.

So why do forklifts have a seatbelt? Surely their speeds are much lower.

The seatbelt on a forklift is not intended to protect the driver from a collision at high speed, but to stop him from his natural urge to jump free.... to his death. Seatbelts in forklifts are designed to prevent drivers from trying to jump free while tipping and having his head or body trapped or crushed between the rollover guard and the floor.

Coroners' inquests hear ever more tragic and gruesome cases of how, as a forklift truck starts to tip over, the human brain makes the driver try and get out of the truck. And how, in trying to save themselves in this way, they often die. The driver is **'mousetrapped'** between the overhead guard and the ground.

No amount of training, experience or knowledge seems to stop operators trying to 'beat the mousetrap'. Studies have shown that the urge to jump is so irresistible that the only real safety precaution is to wear a seatbelt – to stop the driver from jumping out!

So this is what you can do today to **start saving lives**:

- Make it a company rule that **every driver must wear their seat belt at all times.**
- If you see someone in your workplace driving without a seat restraint, **stop them and insist they wear it.**

You say you don't have time to buckle and unbuckle that seatbelt all day? One safety expert actually timed his operators after this objection was raised. He found that 300 buckles in a day took only 6 minutes to perform. Don't believe it? Time it yourself.

“I don't have time” is no excuse for risking your life.

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Comments/questions?

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