

## VEHICLE SAFETY BELTS

The average American has a one-in-three lifetime risk of suffering serious injury in a vehicle accident. One may not be able to control all the circumstances contributing to a vehicle accident, but one can significantly reduce the probability of serious injury or death by wearing a vehicle safety belt while driving or riding in a car or truck.

### **Vehicle Safety belts provide protection by:**

- Distributing the force of the impact across the most robust parts of the body.
- Reducing the risk of impacting the steering wheel, dashboard, windshield, etc.
- Preventing the wearer from being thrown from the vehicle.
- Allowing vehicle control during minor impacts by keeping the driver behind the wheel.

### **Use safety belts every time you drive because:**

- Airbags are designed to work in conjunction with shoulder belts.
- The majority of Vehicle accidents occur in good weather, on dry pavement, and within 25 miles of home.
- A person thrown from a car in an accident is 25 times more likely to be killed.
- Modern safety belt designs do not unduly restrict normal movement.
- In the rare case of an accident involving fire or submersion, safety belts increase the likelihood of safe escape by decreasing the probability that the wearer will be unconscious.
- Maryland law requires that all occupants wear seat belts. Children under 4 should be restrained in an approved child safety seat.
- The use of safety belts is required on Fort Detrick by all motor vehicle occupants.

The National Safety Council states that wearing a vehicle safety belt is the simplest, most effective way to reduce one's risk of accidental death or permanent disability.

If you have questions about seat belts please call EHS at x1451.