



Traffic Safety Bulletin

We Serve and Protect

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LeRoy Martin, Superintendent of Police

WHAT'S OLD IS NEW



Many officers, even after years of driving, still consider the use of seat belts a novelty. Although the seat belt law has been in effect since 1985 in Illinois, it is not a new idea. The first patent for seat belts was granted in 1885. They were designed to keep passengers from falling out of "horseless carriages". Famed race car driver Barney Oldfield ordered seat belts for his race cars in 1922.

You don't have to be a trained investigator to figure out how the damage occurred to this vehicle. The windshield was damaged by the driver's head, the dashboard broken by his knees, and the steering wheel bent by the driver's chest. Considerable damage was done, but what about the driver? The police officer driving this vehicle was fatally injured, he was obviously not wearing his seat belt.

Wearing seat belts will keep you in the car and prevent the "second collision" like this one. Statistics have proven that your odds of being killed in an accident are 25 times greater when thrown from a vehicle.

You may not be able to teach an old dog new tricks, but that's okay the old ones like seat belts work just fine.