

# SAFETY BULLETIN

K S U D I V I S I O N O F F A C I L I T I E S

## The Importance of Seat Belts

The year was 1975, it was a beautiful Sunday morning. Three classmates and I were on our way to a Future Homemakers of America officer installation. On our way to the event the tie rod went out on the car causing me to lose control of the vehicle. The car went down a 30 ft. culvert crashing into the other side. At the time of impact the estimated miles per hour was 32.

Upon impact I hit with such force that my body bent the steering column back to the shaft as I was thrown

through the windshield. I laid on the ground unconscious with massive internal injuries: seven broken ribs, a collapsed lung, severed bowel, and a kidney torn in



half. There was only a 50% chance that I would survive due to the large amount of blood loss. Two of my classmates received severe facial lacerations due to

the broken windshield glass.

Not only did I lose my Rt. Kidney but it took 3 plastic surgery operations to repair the left side of my face.

I share this story with you so the next time you get into a vehicle you remember to secure the seat belt. You do not have to be going fast to be thrown through the windshield because you did not have on a seat belt. The damage to you can be life threatening. Do not become a statistic.

**WEAR YOUR SEAT BELT!**

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\*Pictures and story from Sandra Hoffman's wreck.\*

**Motor Vehicle Accidents Number One Cause of Workplace Fatalities**

# OSHA<sup>®</sup> QUICK CARD<sup>™</sup>

## Tree Trimming & Removal

### Assume that All Power Lines Are Energized!

- Contact the utility company to discuss de-energizing and grounding or shielding of power lines.
- All tree trimming or removal work within ten feet of a power line must be done by trained and experienced line-clearance tree trimmers. A second tree trimmer is required within normal voice communication range.
- Line-clearance tree trimmers must be aware of and maintain the proper minimum approach distances when working around energized power lines.
- Use extreme caution when moving ladders and equipment around downed trees and power lines.

### Stay Alert at All Times!

- Do not trim trees in dangerous weather conditions.
- Perform a hazard assessment of the work area before starting work.
- Eliminate or minimize exposure to hazards at the tree and in the surrounding area.
- Operators of chain saws and other equipment should be trained and the equipment properly maintained.
- Use personal protective equipment such as gloves, safety glasses, hard hats, hearing protection, etc., as recommended in the equipment manufacturer's operating manual.
- Determine the tree's felling direction. Address forward lean, back lean, and/or side lean issues.
- Determine the proper amount of hinge wood to safely guide the tree's fall. Provide a retreat path to a safe location.
- Inspect tree limbs for strength and stability before climbing. Tree trimmers working aloft must use appropriate fall protection.
- Do not climb with tools in your hands.
- If broken trees are under pressure, determine the direction of the pressure and make small cuts to release it.
- Use extreme care when felling a tree that has not fallen completely to the ground and is lodged against another tree.
- Never turn your back on a falling tree.
- Be alert and avoid objects thrown back by a tree as it falls.

For more complete information:

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