

THE SEATBELT CONVINCER



The Seatbelt Convincer is designed to simulate an automobile crash at 5, 7 or 9 miles per hour. The Convincer has a seat with a lap and shoulder belt that must be worn when riding it. When the operator releases the seat, the rider drops approximately 12 feet hitting a bar/wall. The point of the Convincer is to demonstrate that even at a low speed the impact of hitting the bar is shocking to your body. The average speed in Dickinson is about 28 miles per hour, which is 3 times the highest setting on the seatbelt convincer.

Using Sir Isaac Newton's theory studying gravitation and motion: An object in motion continues to remain in motion at the original speed until acted on by an outside force. In other words, an object keeps moving in the direction it was headed until it is stopped by something.

Example: For a vehicle, the stopping force or "outside force may be the brakes or another vehicle or a tree.

Example: For an occupant of that vehicle, the outside force could be the windshield or a safety belt or child restraint system.

To measure the restraining force is approximately equal to the weight (of child) times Speed (before crash).

Child Weights 10 lbs. X 25 miles per hour = 250 pounds of force to restrain the infant from moving forward.

An abrupt change in speed is what causes injury. If the change happens within a few milliseconds, it is much more injurious than if it happens over a few seconds. Stopping over a longer distance (the vehicle and occupant stopping in unison) will also lessen injury.

Therefore, the Seatbelt Convincer is a perfect tool to use in Drivers Training Classes, Defensive Driving Courses, and any community gathering to teach people the importance of buckling up.

Come and ride the Seatbelt Convincer or watch someone else ride it. It will change your mind about not buckling up when you get behind the wheel of a vehicle or ride as a passenger.