
International Seat Belt Pledge

Firefighter Christopher Brian Hunton, age 27, was a member of the Amarillo, TX fire department for one year. On April 23, 2005 he fell out of his fire truck responding to an alarm. He died two days later from his injuries. Brian was not wearing his seat belt.

As a result, in 2006, the [National Fire Service Seatbelt Pledge](#) was created.

Dr. Burton Clark, a distinguished member of the fire service and training specialist at the National Fire Academy, was compelled to challenge firefighters to improve their personal safety by wearing their seatbelts. With website and administrative support from [TrainingDivision.com](#) and [Firehouse.com](#), the National Fire Service Seatbelt Pledge was introduced to the American Fire Service.

In addition to the support of the [National Fire Academy](#), fire service partners including: the [National Fallen Firefighters Foundation](#), the [International Fire Chiefs Association \(IFCA\)](#), [National Volunteer Fire Council \(NVFC\)](#), [National Fire Protection Association \(NFPA\)](#), and the [National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health \(NIOSH\)](#) have also joined the effort to eliminate firefighter injuries and line-of-duty deaths that can be prevented by seatbelt use.

Five years later, over **850** departments and **150,000** firefighters have signed the National Fire Service Seatbelt Pledge and committed to wearing their seatbelts. The reach of the Seatbelt Pledge has also spread beyond the borders of the United States. Firefighters in Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom, and U.S. Military Bases around the world have recognized the importance of wearing their seatbelts and joined the effort to ensure [Everyone Goes Home®](#).

Motor vehicle crashes are the second-leading cause of firefighter fatalities in the United States and this effort aims to reduce the number of preventable fatalities. Just as you need to get to the scene of a call quickly, you need to get there safely; buckling your seatbelt is the easiest safety measure you can take.

Chief Ronald J. Siarnicki, Executive Director of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation

Starting in 2011, the [National Fallen Firefighters Foundation](#), through its [Everyone Goes Home®](#) program, will lead the nationwide efforts and provide additional resources and support for the program. Use of seatbelts in department apparatus and personal vehicles is included in [16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives](#), a comprehensive list of steps established in 2004 to reduce the firefighter line-of-duty injuries and deaths. The program, relaunched as the International First Responder Seatbelt Pledge program, will make it even easier for first responders and departments to participate.

If it's not clear: **Seat Belts save lives.** [Motor vehicle crashes are one of the leading causes of death in the US.](#) Don't become a statistic, [sign the Seat Belt Safety Pledge](#), and promise to always wear your seat belt. Enjoy life. Make it there safely. BUCKLE UP!

"I pledge to wear my seat belt whenever I am riding in a Fire Department vehicle. I further pledge to ensure that all my brother and sister firefighters riding with me wear their seat belts. I am making this pledge willingly; to honor Brian Hunton my brother firefighter because wearing seat belts is the right thing to do."

Sources: <https://www.seatbeltpledge.com/> and <https://everyonegoeshome.com/seatbelts/>