



SHOULD I WEAR A SAFETY BELT?

A TRUE STORY -- IT HAPPENED ON A FOGGY NIGHT IN A MIDWESTERN STATE:

A tractor left a divided highway when its driver failed to negotiate a curve. It ran onto the median, knocked down the supports for a warning sign, continued on down the median and struck a bridge abutment. The cab separated from the chassis and came to rest in the oncoming lanes of traffic.

The cab was then struck by a tractor-trailer which jackknifed, and with lights knocked out, blocked both oncoming lanes. A car driven by an off-duty State Police sergeant then rear-ended the tractor-trailer. Another tractor-trailer then slammed into the two vehicles.

RESULTS:

The tractor driver suffered fatal injuries; the State Police sergeant was injured seriously but survived the double impact which sandwiched his car to approximately half its length; the other two truck drivers were not seriously injured. The only driver not using a safety belt was killed.

CONCLUSION:

The Accident Reconstruction Specialists for the State Police and the Bureau of Motor Carrier Safety concluded: the use of safety belts by three of the four drivers prevented a multiple fatality accident.

For more information, visit www.fmcsa.dot.gov/safetybelt