



# Spartanburg County

*JULY – AUGUST 2013*

## *RISKY BUSINESS*

### **Mission Statement:**

**At Spartanburg County, safety and health are a shared responsibility. Everyone from administrators, to each and every employee, must take ownership of his/her safety and that of their co-workers.**



### **SEAT BELTS**

Spartanburg County recognizes that seat belts are extremely effective in preventing injuries and loss of life. Spartanburg County cares about its employees, and wants to make sure that no one is injured or killed in a tragedy that could have been prevented by use of seat belts. All drivers and passengers must wear seat belts when operating a County vehicle or while operating any vehicle on County property. Seat belts must be worn whether the employee is a driver or a passenger and regardless of whether air bags are available.



In 2008, 64% of the passenger vehicle occupants, ages 13 to 15 and 21 to 34, killed in traffic crashes were not using seat

belts. These age groups had the highest percentage out of all age groups.

Research has shown that lap/shoulder seat belts, when used, reduce the risk of fatal injury to front-seat passengers car occupants by 45% and the risk of moderate-to-critical injury by 50%.



Ejection from the vehicle is one of the most injurious events that can happen to a person in a crash. In fatal crashes in 2008, 77% of passenger vehicle occupants who were totally ejected from the vehicle were killed.

For a passenger who is traveling in the backseat at the time of their car crash, wearing a seat belt is 44% more effective at preventing death than riding unrestrained. For those riding in the rear of vans and sport-utility vehicles (SUV's) during a car crash, rear seat belts are 73% better at preventing fatalities. Keep in mind that victims are not properly restrained in more than one-half of all fatal car crashes.

As we are all aware, being a Spartanburg County employee makes you very visible to the community and driving a County vehicle is no exception. If you think you can "skirt" the rules and not wear your seat belt, you are mistaken. We receive inputs from our citizens as well as other County employees when they observe rules being broken such as "not wearing your seatbelt

while operating a County vehicle.” Don’t take chances with safety, it’s not worth the risk. Remember: “Safety Is Everyone’s Responsibility.”



## Emergency Contacts

In the event that an accident should occur, please make certain that your Supervisor, Department, and Human Resources have information on whom to contact in an emergency situation.

No one likes to think about the “what if” scenario, but should you be injured and unable to respond, please make certain that you carry information entitled “ICE” (in case of emergency).

ICE will allow first responders (such as paramedics, fire fighters, police, and hospital personnel) to contact the next of kin.



Please do not depend on your personal cell phone to provide this information. Most of us have passwords on our cell phones now and first responders will be unable to access critical information that may be

needed in the event of a serious trauma.

If you move, get a new cell phone, or change telephone numbers, please make sure to update your Emergency Contact information promptly.

You don’t want a loved one to learn about an accident on the evening news.



## Did You Know?



**January:** Januarius (latin), after Janus, the Roman god who faces two ways and was often represented on doorways.

**February:** Februarius (latin), taken from Februa, a purification rite that took place on Feb 15th.

**March:** Martius (latin), named after Mars, the Roman god of war.

**April:** Aprilis (Latin) “to open” : blossoming flowers.

**May:** Maius (larin), after the goddess Maia or “majores” (‘elders’) and referring to a period when older people were honored.

**June:** Junius (latin), named after the goddess Jno or “iuniores (young people) indicating a period when youth was celebrated.

**July:** Named after Gaius Julius Caesar.

**August:** Named after Augustus Caesar, the first Roman Emperor.

**September:** Septem (latin), meaning ‘seven’ originally the 7th month in the Roman calendar.

**October:** Octo (latin), meaning ‘eight’ originally the 8th month in the Roman calendar.

**November:** Novem (latin), meaning ‘nine’ originally the 9th month in the Roman calendar.

**December:** Decem (latin) meaning ‘ten – originally the 10th month in the Roman calendar.