

Be Smart - BUCKLE UP!



Buckle Up and make the smartest choice of them all. Statistics prove that wearing a safety belt has the greatest effect on reducing the chance of fatality—occupants are 75% less likely to be killed in a rollover crash if they are wearing them.

Ejection of occupants who are not wearing safety belts is the leading cause of death in rollover crashes. Occupants thrown from a vehicle in a rollover crash are often run over by the vehicle itself or hurled against a fixed object.

An ejected occupant is 4 times more likely to be killed.



Source: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) 2004.

Rollover Summary

Always wear your safety belt. Wearing a safety belt has the greatest effect on reducing the chance of a fatality. Occupants are 75% less likely to be killed if they are wearing safety belts.

Don't drink and drive. Even a small amount of alcohol can slow your reaction time, making it difficult to keep control of the vehicle.

Don't Speed. Obey posted limits and reduce speed on sharp curves and freeway on-and-off ramps. Adjust speed to existing conditions.

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Passenger Safety

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Vehicle Rollover Crashes

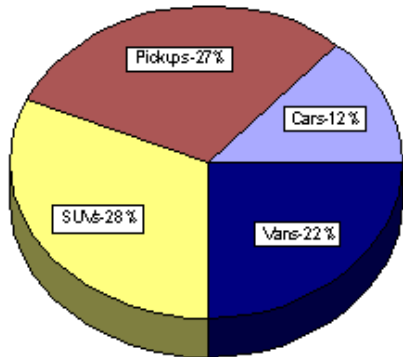
Each year, many people are needlessly injured and killed in rollover crashes.

All types of vehicles are involved in rollover crashes. The chance of rollover for the following vehicles are:

- Passenger cars - **12%**
- Pickup trucks - **27%**
- Sport Utility vehicles - **28%**
- Vans - **22%**

Types of Vehicles

Involved in Rollover Crashes



Pickups are Twice as Likely to Roll as Passenger Vehicles



What Causes a Vehicle to Roll?

There are several conditions that may contribute to rollover crashes. Most fall into the following categories:

Sideways Skid (and Trip) Rollover

The rear wheels of a vehicle lose traction causing the rear of the vehicle to spin so that the vehicle is moving sideways. The tires trip on a curb or object, causing the vehicle to rollover. Short wheelbases may be more susceptible.

Side Slope Rollovers

Severe sloping of the ground under a vehicle can cause the vehicle to roll. This type of rollover occurs in off-road situations either unintentionally or when driving in off-road areas.

Ramp Rollovers

Ramp rollovers are less common than tripped rollovers, occurring less than 5% of the time, and mostly to top-heavy vehicles. Loss of control due to excessive speed or alcohol impairment.

Lateral Force Rollovers

High speed turning maneuvers, most frequently at freeway exits and entrances, lead to this type of rollover. When a vehicle is traveling too fast on a curve, the lateral force keep the vehicle going in its original direction of travel, causing it to roll.

Preventing Rollover Crashes and Injuries

Since nearly 85% of all rollover crashes are the result of single-vehicle crashes, the driver can reduce the likelihood of having a rollover crash simply by making smart choices.

Avoid panic-like steering because many rollover crashes occur when drivers overcorrect their steering as a panic reaction to an emergency. At highway speeds, overcorrecting can cause the driver to lose control, which can force the vehicle to slide sideways and roll over.

Rural areas have nearly 75% of all rollover crashes. Rollovers are more likely to occur on rural roads and highways—particularly undivided, two-way roads or divided roads with no barriers. So, practice caution when driving on rural roads.

Don't Speed because 40% of rollover crashes involved excessive speeding. Nearly three-fourths of rollover crashes took place where posted speed was 55 mph or higher.

Don't Drink & Drive because nearly 50% of fatal rollover crashes involve alcohol use. Even a small amount of alcohol will negatively effect judgment, muscular coordination and vision.

Maintaining tires can help reduce the chance of a rollover crash. Improperly inflated and worn tires can be especially dangerous because they can effect ability to maintain control of the vehicle.

Load vehicles properly according to the owner's manual. Any load placed on the roof will be above the vehicle's center of gravity and will increase the vehicle's likelihood of rolling over.