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## Reduce Accidents with Knowledge

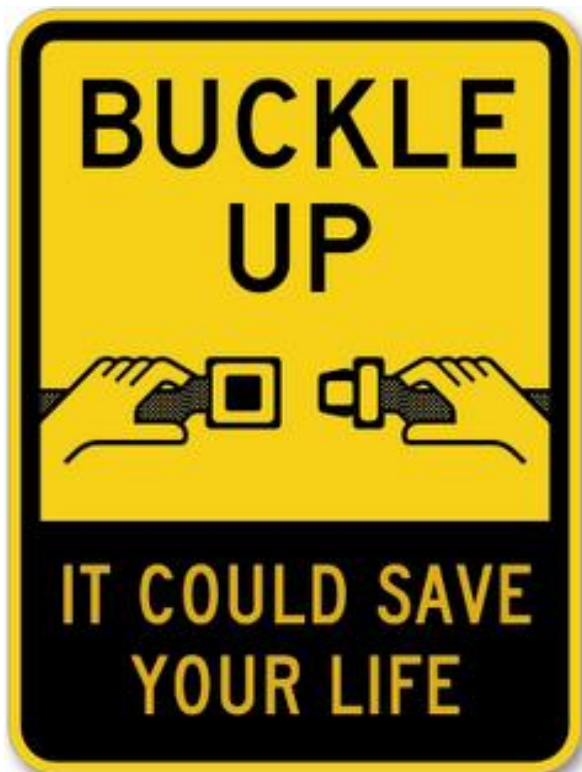
The more you know about the causes and consequences of accidents, the more likely you are to eliminate or reduce their occurrence. Once the accident producing sequences are put into motion, there is little you can do to affect the resulting damage and injuries. The first, second, third, etc. events that start the sequence, which lead up to an accident, occur progressively faster and get more difficult, if not impossible, to control. Errors start the process and physics usually take over; inertia, G-forces, etc. The trick then is to “nip” the sequence, preferably at the first event, while you still have control. Accident statistics, over the years, have proven that “human error” is the cause of the overwhelming majority of accidents. Sometimes drivers simply do not know what to do in a particular situation, while others temporarily ignore the proper action, in favor of giving in to an emotion. This can prove to be fatal, such as in the case of aggressive driving or road rage. The answer is simple: **Don’t give in to that emotion; don’t participate in errant behaviors or decisions.** The answer is simple, but for some, practicing that answer may be a little more difficult and may require practice.

**Conditions:** These include the driver’s physical and mental condition, weather, road, traffic, and light and vehicle condition. Conditions can’t always be controlled, so adjustments must be made. Adjust your driving to the conditions and control your actions, and you can “nip” that first event.

**Primary or “Root” Causes:** Whether it’s a traffic accident or an injury in the shop or at home, being in a hurry causes a large percentage of accidents. That doesn’t mean that we must take an inordinate amount of time to do a job or complete a task. It simply means that we should take the proper amount of time necessary to do it right. Haste, anger, fatigue and many other states and conditions can start the sequence of events leading up to an accident. If we know it, we can control our actions, in spite of those conditions, and make it safely through a difficult situation. Remember that it’s our **ACTIONS and BEHAVIORS** that start the events, NOT the conditions.

**Contribution Factors:** Attempting to find the primary cause of an accident can be tricky. For instance, a vehicle runs off the road and rolls over. Rolling over and coming to rest are the last events. A “contributing factor” is certainly that the vehicle ran off the road, and there are usually many more contributing factors. The “root” cause is the first event, i.e., why the vehicle left the road. Finding the root cause is the key to preventing future crashes. Many times, the root cause consists of a bad decision, or inattention. Remember, **CHANCE** determines the **OUTCOME** (damage & injuries) of most accidents.

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# Safety Brief



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This form documents that the training specified above was presented to the listed participants. By signing below, each participant acknowledges receiving this training.

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Trainer: \_\_\_\_\_ Trainer's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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