

Item 30

SEAT BELT ADVICE DAY

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL'S LOCAL COMMITTEE (SURREY HEATH)

8th December 2005

KEY ISSUE:

To report on the Surrey Heath Seat Belt Advice Day held on the 6th October 2005 on the A322 in Bisley.

SUMMARY:

A Seat Belt Advice Day was carried out on the 6th October 2005 on the A322 in Bisley. The report sets out the findings of the day in terms of numbers of vehicles stopped, and responses to questions given to the drivers.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Local Committee in Surrey Heath notes the report.

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1. Surrey County Council in conjunction with Surrey Police and the 'Road Safety Partnership,' carries out a number of Safety Advice Days each year aimed at educating motorists at the roadside. This takes the form of a short film on the possible consequences of not wearing a seat belt followed by a series of questions.
2. Seat belts are designed to retain people in their seats, and so prevent or reduce injuries suffered in a crash. They ensure that as little contact is made between the occupant and vehicle interior as possible and significantly reduce the risk of being thrown from a vehicle.

On modern vehicles, seat belts are now also designed to work as the key part of wider injury prevention measures and safety systems, such as airbags and head restraints, which will not be as effective in reducing the risk of injury if an occupant is not wearing a seat belt.

ANALYSIS AND COMMENTARY

3. The following results were collected from the motorists that were stopped at the site:

Vehicle type:

- Car – 31
- LGV – 34
- One vehicle type not recorded

Driver:

- Male - 63
- Female – 3
- +1 form gender not recorded

Age group:

- 17-25 = 8
- 26-35 = 15
- 36-45 = 19
- 46-55 = 18
- 56-65 = 2
- 66+ = 3

Seatbelt Usage:

- Driver – 65 not wearing seat belt, 1 was wearing a seatbelt
- Front Seat Passenger – 7 not wearing seatbelt, 5 wearing seatbelt
- Rear Seat Passengers – 1 not wearing seatbelt, 2 wearing seatbelt

Questions 3a to 3e were asked of drivers stopped and the following responses were received

3a. How do you feel about the films you have just seen?

- 20 drivers said they had seen at least some clips before on TV; of those 10 found them still effective, 4 found them less effective for repetition.
- 16 drivers found the clips deeply impressive - “hits home” “shocking” “disturbing”
- 9 appeared moderately impressed “bit of an eye opener” “scary” “educational”
- 3 appeared unaffected “upsetting” “a bit sick” “scare tactics”
- 6 commented on the accuracy of the films
- Other comments – “How stupid not to wear it” “ I know its wrong and dangerous not to wear it”

3b. Do you know what the law is on wearing seat belts for

- The driver – 58 correct replies, 1 incorrect
- Adult passengers – 24 correct responses, 31 incorrectly attributed responsibility to the driver

- Child passengers under the age of 14 – 48 correct replies, 3 incorrectly attributed responsibility to parents.

3c. Is there a reason why you were not wearing a seat belt?

- 22 drivers - forgot/laziness/no excuse
- 16 drivers - making deliveries/in the van. Frequently accompanied by “ but I usually wear it in the car”
- 8 drivers said they used belts intermittently. “I tend not to” “I usually wear it” “I wear it 30% of the time” “on motorways”
- 6 drivers – just pulled out/ about to stop
- 2 drivers – only on a local trip
- 2 drivers claimed to have a medical exemption cert, but not with them
- 1 driver said he wears belt under arm and was advised....
- 1 said he was lost and looking for instructions....(?)
- 1 insisted belts cause more deaths and injuries than they prevent.
- 1 “I feel protected by the airbags”
- 1 “I can’t be bothered”

3d. Did you know that:

Seat belt wearing in the front seat saves over 2200 lives every year.

In a crash at 30 mph, if you are unrestrained, you will hit the front seat, and anyone in it, with a force of between 30 and 60 times your own body weight. Such an impact could kill both yourself and front seat occupants.

3e. Additional information

In addition to the drivers interviewed by RSOs, two drivers were ticketed by the police.

Four drivers were using a hand held mobile. RSOs talked to them about this

CRIME & DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

4. The application of Seat Belt Advice Days is likely to reduce the risk of serious injury during an accident and will ultimately save lives.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Surrey Heath Local Committee notes the report.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS: None

Number of Annexes: None