



South Carolina Attorney Offers Tips to Drive More Safely in 2010

The simple step of buckling a seat belt could save an additional 5,000 lives annually, says Columbia lawyer Bert Louthian.

Columbia, S.C. ([PRWEB](#)) January 7, 2010 -- As the new year gets under way, a South Carolina personal injury attorney is reminding motorists to wear a seat belt or use a child restraint because those safety devices are among the most effective ways to protect your loved ones on the highway.

Seat belts, motorcycle helmets, child restraint seats and air bags prevent thousands of traffic deaths each year, said [Bert Louthian](#), of the [Louthian Law Firm P.A.](#), of Columbia, S.C., pointing to a new report by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

“Simple steps protect families,” said Louthian, a well-respected personal injury attorney whose firm handles auto, motorcycle and truck accidents. “Wearing a seat belt or a motorcycle helmet is a decision that can change your life.”

The NHTSA estimates that the use of seat belts nationwide saved 15,147 lives of people aged 5 and older in 2007 and child restraints saved 382 lives of youngsters aged 4 and younger. The same year, motorcycle helmets saved 1,784 lives, the report estimates, while frontal air bags saved an estimated 2,788 people.

Federal highway traffic safety analysts project an estimated 5,024 more lives could have been saved if all drivers and passengers wore seat belts in passenger vehicles. And another 800 lives could have been saved if all motorcyclists wore helmets, they said.

Fatal traffic accidents have trended downward since the 1990s, even as use of seat belts has steadily improved. South Carolina is among 26 states that have primary enforcement laws that allow police to stop motorists and issue tickets for not wearing a seat belt.

In 2009, about 84 percent of motorists wore seat belts. A passenger car occupant wearing a seat belt in the front seat is 37 percent more likely to survive a potentially fatal crash than one who is not belted, while drivers are 48 percent more likely to survive when buckled up, the report says.

Traffic fatalities in South Carolina dropped 15 percent in 2008, the most recent year of complete data analyzed by federal highway safety officials. Nationwide, the decline was 10 percent. In 2008, 920 people lost their lives in vehicle accidents in South Carolina.

“Buckle up and drive safety in 2010,” Louthian said.

About The Louthian Law Firm

The [Louthian Law Firm, P.A.](#), of Columbia, South Carolina, has been obtaining fair compensation for South Carolina accident victims since 1959. The firm was founded by Herbert Louthian, who has five decades of trial experience and is licensed to practice in all courts in South Carolina. The Louthian Law Firm focuses on personal injury cases involving, [car](#), truck and motorcycle accidents, medical malpractice and other serious and catastrophic injuries throughout South Carolina. For a confidential case evaluation, contact the firm by phone at



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