

Seatbelts

# Demonstrate effectiveness of seat belts and air bags

Supplies: Remote-controlled model car; small doll; rubber bands; balloons; sponge; video camera.

Instructions:

**Part 1**

Place the doll in a sitting position on top of the car.

Have a student drive the car into a wall at full speed.

Have another student video tape the “crash” (Note how the doll “crashes”).

**Part 2**

Use the same starting point as in Part 1.

Attach the doll to the top of the car with rubber bands.

Repeat the crash and videotape again.

**Part 3**

Inflate and tie a balloon and attach to the front of the car, in front of the doll (simulated airbag). Repeat the “crash” from Part 2.

**Part 4**

Attach a sponge to the wall at the “crash” site. With the doll “belted” and “airbag” inflated, crash the car into the sponge and videotape.

Play back the videos in slow motion. Freeze frame as desired and lead a discussion on the effectiveness of safety features of a vehicle, potential for injury without these features, and why people don’t always use safety belts or proper steering control.