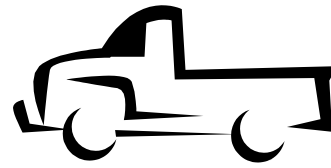


# Pick-Up Truck Safety



## True Story

*A 14-year-old boy was sitting on the upper edge of a pickup truck bed while his brother was driving. The brother hit a pot hole in the road, and the 14-year-old fell out and died at the scene.*

-From the Oklahoma Injury Update

## The Facts

- The cargo area of a pick-up truck, with or without a canopy, has proven to be a source of injuries and death to children and adults.
- Ejection from the cargo area during a collision is the major cause of injury and death for pick-up truck passengers.
- Over 200 deaths per year occur to persons riding in pick-up truck cargo beds. More than half the deaths are children.
- Children in covered beds are exposed to the danger of carbon monoxide poisoning from exhaust fumes.

## What You Can Do

- NEVER allow children to ride in the cargo area of a pick-up truck.
- Support efforts to ban children in the cargo area of pick-up trucks.
- The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration offers the following tips for making your next ride in a pick-up safer:
  - Child safety seats must not be used on side-facing jump seats.
  - Child safety seats must have at least 80 percent of the safety seat base on the bench seat. Installing a tether strap to the vehicle frame may prevent the safety seat from moving too far forward.
  - A rear-facing child seat must never be secured in either the center or right front seat if the pick-up is equipped with a passenger air bag and does not have an air bag on-off switch.
  - If there is no other seating available, children over one year of age must be properly secured in a forward-facing child restraint or vehicle lap and shoulder belt and positioned as far back from the dashboard as possible.
  - All children should ride in properly installed child safety seats or lap and shoulder belts appropriate for their size.

*Source: Kids Aren't Cargo and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration*



Led By

**BLANK CHILDREN'S  
HOSPITAL**  
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Safe Kids Greater Des Moines, led by Blank Children's Hospital, is a grassroots organization dedicated to preventing unintentional injury in children ages 0-14.

For more information call (515) 241-6293 or visit [www.dsmsafekids.org](http://www.dsmsafekids.org).

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