



Billy
Station 44

On April 29th at around three in the afternoon our unit was transporting a Critical CVA patient to a stroke center. With lights and sirens on we approached an intersection with a green light. As we proceeded through the intersection we were struck near our back wheel by another vehicle. The car went under our ambulance lifting the ambulance up and rolling it onto its side. While fastened by my seatbelt, I realized I was suspended in mid air. I took off my seatbelt and climbed through the driver's side window. Everything in the cab of the ambulance was on the passenger's side window. Had it not been for my seatbelt, that is where I would have ended up as well, sustaining a serious injury. Aside from EVOC, I had been told by a coworker of an accident she was in. She stated her ambulance rolled over while she was not wearing her seatbelt and she sustained a femur fracture. After hearing that story it reinforced to me the need to wear my seatbelt. I sustained minimal injury because I wore my seatbelt. Since this happened to me, I encourage everyone to lead by example and always wear your seatbelt. Had it not been for my seatbelt I may not have been here to tell you my story today.



Cody
Station 4

On the morning of November 20, 2006 my partner and I were responding to a priority one Cardiac Arrest assignment when our ambulance was involved in a motor vehicle accident. It occurred at an intersection in Manhattan, and involved a tractor trailer. The impact was so severe that it caused our ambulance to overturn. I was in the passenger seat at the time with my seat belt fastened. My head went through the side window cutting my scalp severely and my left ear was cut in half. I sustained injuries to my right shoulder and left knee. I was found unconscious by the emergency personnel who came to our aid. They had to cut the door off the side of the ambulance in order to disentangle me from the vehicle. When I awoke I was being treated for my injuries at the hospital. If it had not been for the seat belt that I was wearing I most likely would have been ejected from the ambulance and sustained more serious injuries or possibly even been killed. From one colleague to another, wear your seatbelt at all times, even during patient care. The seatbelt saved my life that morning. It could save yours!



Daniel
Station 18

On April 25, 2010 at around 2130 my partner and I were responding to a priority 6 sick job. When we were about 4 blocks out we got called by dispatch for a higher priority. We were being redirected to a priority 3 unknown. The roads were wet from recent rain. While responding with lights and sirens we approached an intersection with four lanes of traffic. After clearing the first three we were suddenly hit by a vehicle that was traveling east bound in the west bound lane. Our ambulance was T-Boned when a car going 40-50 MPH struck the drivers side door of our ambulance. The driver never got out to check and see if we were ok but rather backed his car up and left the scene. The force of the impact caused my body to shift to the right, but because I was wearing my seatbelt it prevented me from landing on my partner. The seatbelt held me in place and prevented me from major injury. I sustained some bruising and a strain to my left shoulder from the seatbelt. After being taken to the hospital for evaluation, my partner and I later found out that the police had caught the driver and that he was intoxicated. I had learned the importance of seatbelt use at the Bureau of Training Emergency Vehicle Operators Course. It has also been reinforced by an officer in my division who while on patrol checks on units and send messages to the KDT. Every time I get in the ambulance I think about that officer reminding us to wear our seatbelts. Due to these positive reinforcements my life was saved. I sustained minimal injuries as compared to what could have been had I not been wearing my seatbelt.



**Renae
Station 39**

In 2008 I was involved in a roll over in my vehicle while responding to a call. I was the technician on that day. I, as usual, had on my seatbelt, prior to my partner and I responding lights and sirens to a segment 6. I have to be honest with you, to the best of my knowledge, all I remember prior to impact was my partner saying “Oh no” and my seeing bright lights as I looked to my left. We were struck by another vehicle causing our vehicle to roll over on its side. I could not believe that after all these years of responding to calls that this would happen to me, but then again who on this job would also think something like this would happen to them. When the vehicle rolled, I was concerned about being trapped or the vehicle catching fire. While we were rolling my partner was screaming for me to hold on. He was being tossed around in the vehicle like a crash dummy because he wasn't wearing his seatbelt. When we stopped rolling, I was conscious, seat belt in-tact, and had feeling in all of my extremities, so I am thinking that I am good until help comes. I have to tell you all this thinking covered a matter of seconds. What I wasn't prepared for is the next big thing that was coming. My 6 ft. 6 partner landed on me. This secondary impact from my unrestrained partner did more damage to me than the vehicle that hit us. When he crashed into me it felt like someone hit me in the head with a hammer and I immediately blacked out. I was totally out of it. Luckily I didn't sustain any permanent injuries but this went as a lesson learned for my partner and I. Always wear your seat belt. I insist on the same for you and anyone that I work with to this day and it's called BEING MY BROTHERS KEEPER.

