



What is Automobile Safety?
Automobile safety is the study and practice of design, construction, equipment and regulation to minimize the occurrence and consequences of automobile accidents.

The first self-propelled vehicle was thought to be a steam-powered tractor invented by Frenchman Nicolas-Joseph Cugnot (1725-1804) in 1769. The fastest speed reached with this vehicle was 2.5 mph.



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Safety at Fluor Hanford (B)



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More on Automobile Safety

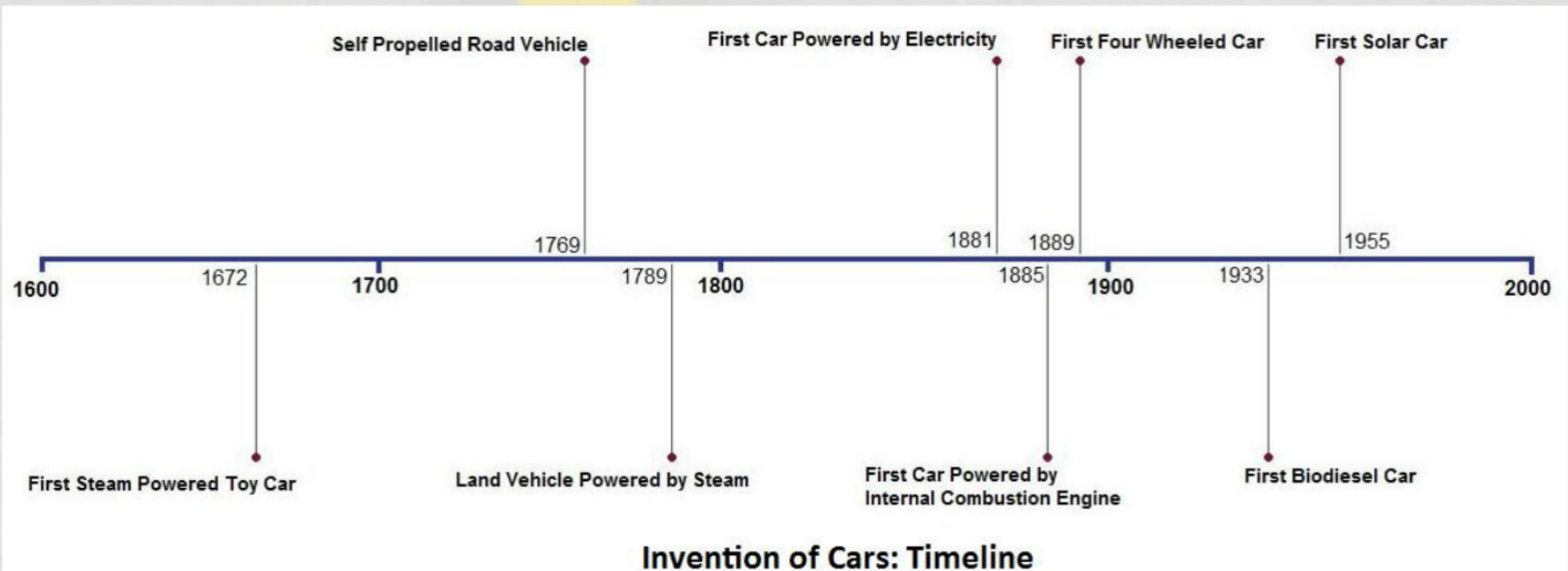
In 1865 the British Parliament passed the Red Flag Act. This regulated self-propelled vehicles, creating the first speed limits of 6 km/h (4 mph) in the country and 3 km/h (2 mph) in towns.

In addition, it was ordered that each vehicle should be preceded by a man on foot carrying a flag or lantern. By walking ahead of the vehicle, the man not only warned of its approach but ensured that it could go no faster than walking pace.



Timeline of Automobiles

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Breakdown of Safety Advancements

- 1958 - Seat Belt: Volvo introduces the seat belt. It remains the most beneficial car safety device of all time.
- 1960 - Padded Dashboard: Volvo introduces a padded dashboard, in an attempt to reduce facial/chest injuries from frontal collisions.
- 1966 - Anti-lock Brakes (ABS): First mechanical anti-lock brakes based on aircraft technology, introduced on the Jensen FF, a hand-built luxury sports car.
- 1967 - Seat Belts: All cars sold must be fitted with front seat belts.
- 1968 - Head Restraints: Volvo offers front-seat head restraints, aimed at protecting the head and neck in rear-end crashes.
- 1978 - Electronic ABS: Mercedes-Benz S-class is the first production car with electronic ABS.
- 1981 - Drivers Airbag: Mercedes-Benz S-class is the first production car with a driver's airbag.

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Breakdown cont.

1983 - Seat Belts: Becomes compulsory to wear front seat belts.

1986 - Third Brake Light: High-level third brake light is introduced by Volvo.

1987 - Rear Seat Belts: New cars sold must be fitted with rear seat belts.

1989 - Rear Seat Belts: Rear seat belts, if fitted, must be worn by children under 14 years in all cars.

1991 - Seat Belts: Seat belts, if fitted, must be worn by all rear seat passengers including adults.

1994 - Crash Tests: Pioneering crash tests carried out by European consumer organizations. Test method later adopted by Euro NCAP.

1996 - Euro NCAP Established: Euro NCAP established. Super minis are first to be tested, with the Rover 100 scoring just one star. It is withdrawn from sale 22 months later.

2001 - First 5 Star Rating Awarded: First car to be awarded a five-star Euro NCAP rating for occupant protection to the Renault Laguna II.

2005 - Pop-up Bonnets: Pop-up bonnets designed to reduced pedestrians injuries available on Citroen C6 and Jaguar XK (a bonnet is a hood).

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Simple steps people can take to improve automobile safety

- Wear a seat belt
- Never drink and drive
- Avoid distractions
- Maintain control of the car at all times
- Use good judgement and common sense behind the wheel

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How we can Improve Automobile Safety

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- Our idea: form a new type of seat belt
- This idea includes developing a product where the seat belt automatically straps you in the seat safely
- Not only does this save time, but it also reduces the risk of people becoming injured due to not having proper protection.

