

WEEKLY SAFETY REMINDERS

OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2009



October 4

In 2008, over 37,000 people were killed in motor vehicle crashes. The 2009 “Drive Safely Work Week” begins tomorrow, reminding all drivers to “*Drive Focused. Drive Smart. Get Home Safely.*” As you commute to and from work, remember that your loved ones are counting on you to make it back safely at the end of the day. Exercise safe driving practices like buckling up, driving the speed limit, and avoiding distractions. For more information, visit www.trafficsafety.org.

October 11



Sadly, a teen dies in a traffic crash an average of once every hour on weekends and nearly once every two hours during the week – and over half of those killed were not wearing a seat belt during the crash. Educate the teens in your life about the importance of seat belts. For more information, visit www.nhtsa.dot.gov and select Teen Drivers.

October 18

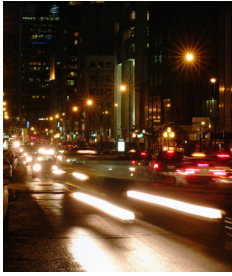
Today is the start of National Teen Driver Safety Week. One of the biggest risks for new drivers is carrying passengers. Two out of three teens that die as passengers are in vehicles driven by other teens! Help the teens in our congregation realize how important their actions are when driving or riding with friends. Remind them to buckle up, reduce distractions, and respect the driver. And don't forget, *Click It or Ticket!* For more information, visit www.nhtsa.gov/link/ciot.htm.

October 25

This Halloween, our community will be filled with costumed characters, but be on the lookout for those masked as safe drivers! Drinking and driving is a threat to your loved ones, whether pedestrians, passengers, or drivers. In a given year, 1,388 African Americans are killed in alcohol-impaired driving crashes. *Buzzed Driving is Drunk Driving.* For more information, visit www.StopImpairedDriving.org.



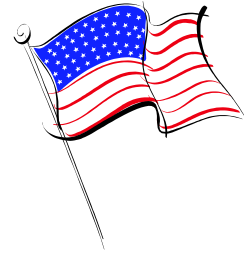
November 1



Daylight savings time ends today, so take extra precaution as more of your driving may be in the dark. Nighttime driving can present many challenges, including decreased visibility and impaired judgment resulting from drowsiness. Play it safe – don't speed, always wear your seat belt, and don't drive when you're tired. For more information, visit www.nhtsa.dot.gov/. Click on "Traffic Safety" and choose "Drowsy and Distracted Driving."

November 8

This week we celebrate Veteran's Day to honor all who have served in the U.S. military. As you remember our veterans, respect the freedoms they represent by being a responsible citizen. Too often holidays and remembrances begin with alcohol and end with someone driving home drunk. For more information, visit www.StopImpairedDriving.org.



November 15

Holiday travel will increase as Thanksgiving nears, and with more vehicles on the road drivers should be extra cautious. In 2007, 548 people were killed in traffic crashes over the 4-day holiday. Be thankful for your family's safety, and do your part to keep them safe. Don't drive aggressively and avoid distractions that take your eyes from the road. For more information on how to stop aggressive driving, visit www.nhtsa.dot.gov.

November 22



Seat belts are a necessity for everyone in your vehicle. In 2008, the use of seat belts in passenger vehicles saved an estimated 13,250 lives, and child safety seats saved the lives of 244 children (4 and under). However, 62 percent of African Americans killed in motor vehicle crashes were unrestrained. Imagine how many of those killed might be alive today if they had worn a seat belt. For more information, visit www.nhtsa.dot.gov/. Click on "Traffic Safety" and choose "Occupant Protection."

November 29



The holiday has passed, and kids are back to their usual routine. This means school buses will be back on the roads carrying our congregation's precious cargo. Slow down for school zones, stop for school buses that are loading or unloading, and teach your children to be on the lookout for vehicles that may not be looking out for them. For information, visit www.nhtsa.dot.gov. Click on "Traffic Safety" and choose "School Buses."

December 6

December is the National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month (3D Month). In a given year, more than one-third of African Americans killed in motor vehicle traffic crashes are legally drunk. Never ride with a friend or family member who is under the influence of alcohol or drugs. For information, visit www.nhtsa.dot.gov. Click on "Traffic Safety" and choose "Impaired Driving."

December 13

Christmas vacation is a wonderful time for children, family, and friends. Whether your time away from school or work leaves you busy with the hustle and bustle of the holidays or at leisure with unoccupied time, talk with your family about celebrating responsibly. Help your children understand the consequences of drinking and driving, a crime with almost 12,000 victims last year alone. For more information, visit www.stopimpaireddriving.org.



December 20

Tomorrow is the first day of winter. Taking good care of your vehicle can be especially important in the wintertime, when ice and cold temperatures present chilling hazards. Check out your vehicle for maintenance issues or safety defects so you and your family don't get left in the cold. For more information about tire maintenance, air bags, and safety recalls, visit www.safercar.gov.

December 27



Not everyone will resolve to live responsibly this New Year. For many, the "spirit" of the season includes too many *spirits*, followed by driving home. Protect your family by making smart decisions – never drink and drive and make sure everyone in the car buckles up. *Drunk Driving. Over the Limit. Under Arrest.* For more information, visit www.stopimpaireddriving.org.