

WEEKLY TRAFFIC SAFETY REMINDERS

JANUARY-MARCH 2011

January 2

This year, resolve to cut distractions from your life, starting with your behavior behind the wheel. Nearly 6,000 people die and more than half a million are injured annually in crashes involving a distracted or inattentive driver. Please, put down your cell phone and pay attention to what lies ahead. You won't miss out on anything — except for an avoidable crash! For more information, visit www.distraction.gov.

January 9



Make a promise for 2011 to never take a trip without wearing a seat belt. In 2009, the use of seat belts in passenger vehicles saved an estimated 12,713 lives. One of the many lives saved this year could be yours or a loved one's! For more information, visit www.nhtsa.gov and select Seat Belts.

January 16

Wintertime is full of beauty, but much of the season's décor is not so lovely when you're traveling. Snow and ice create many travel concerns. Be prepared! Get your vehicle serviced, keep an emergency kit stocked, inspect your tires, and slow down enough to drive safely in the winter weather conditions. For more information, visit www.nhtsa.gov and click on "Driving Safety."

January 23

Sometimes people feel safe in large vehicles — so safe, that they don't think it's necessary to buckle up. If you're taking a church trip in a 15-passenger van, always wear your seat belt. An unbuckled 15-passenger van occupant involved in a single-vehicle crash is approximately three times as likely to be killed as a buckled occupant. For more information, visit www.safercar.gov.



January 30



Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for 15 to 20-year-olds. During these winter months, help teach the inexperienced drivers in your life the importance of slowing down in bad weather, such as rain, sleet, or snow. A little patience goes a long way on our roadways! For more information, visit www.nhtsa.gov/Teen-Drivers.

February 6

Today, many will gather together with friends and family to watch the Superbowl. Often times, these get-togethers will also include alcohol. In a given year, almost one-third of traffic fatalities were in alcohol-impaired-driving crashes. But you can help make sure today's celebrations don't end in tragedy. If you see someone who has been drinking, volunteer to drive them home. Fans Don't Let Fans Drive Drunk! For more information, visit www.stopimpaireddriving.org.

February 13

During 2009, there were a total of 33,808 traffic fatalities in the United States. This Valentine's Day — and every day — show your loved ones that you care about their wellbeing when they're riding in your vehicle. Take every step to ensure their safety, such as driving the speed limit and giving the road your full attention. For more information, visit www.nhtsa.gov and click on "Driving Safety."



February 20

Tomorrow is President's Day. Both past and present, good leaders have always shared a desire to protect those who trust in them. Be a leader for your family and make sure your children are properly restrained. In 2009, 46 percent of children killed in traffic crashes were not buckled up at the time of the crash. For more information, visit www.nhtsa.gov and click on "Child Safety."

February 27



When you're driving, helpful devices can become harmful ones if you look away from the road to use them. Drivers who use hand-held devices are four times as likely to get into crashes serious enough to injure themselves. Wait until you're stopped to use your navigation system, mp3 player, or cell phone! For more information, visit www.distraction.gov.

March 6

During spring months, more bicyclists will be on the roadway, for both fun and transportation. Allow at least three feet of clearance when passing a bicyclist, look for cyclists before opening a car door or pulling out from a parking space, and yield to cyclists at intersections. Plus, be especially watchful for cyclists when making turns and always keep an eye out for children. For more information, visit www.nhtsa.gov. Click on "Driving Safety" and choose "Bicycles."

March 13

St. Patrick's Day is Thursday. If you're traveling that evening, be very careful and on the lookout for drunk drivers. Nationwide, there were 10,839 alcohol-impaired driving fatalities in 2009. You can be a lifesaver by offering a ride to someone's whose been drinking. Remember, *Friends Don't Let Friends Drive Drunk*. For more information, visit www.stopimpaireddriving.org.



March 20



As the temperature warms, more motorcycles will be out and about, enjoying the spring weather. It can be easy to overlook a motorcycle, so drive with care and take extra time to look for motorcycles before changing lanes and turning in intersections. For more information, visit www.nhtsa.gov. Click on "Driving Safety" and choose "Motorcycles."

March 27

Teen drivers need guidance to become responsible and safe behind the wheel. In 2008, 1,429,000 drivers involved in police-reported crashes were young drivers. Set a good example for the teens in your life, teaching them the skills they need to mature into dependable drivers who obey the speed limit and always buckle up. For more information, visit www.nhtsa.gov/Teen-Drivers.
