

WEEKLY SAFETY REMINDERS

OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2010

October 3

When you drive to work, do you always pay attention to the pedestrians and bicyclists around you? Each year, about 20% of the traffic fatalities in the 14-and-younger age group were pedestrians. Tomorrow is the first day of Drive Safely to Work Week and Friday is Walk to School Day. This is a great time to review safe walking and bicycling tips with your children and be a good example of a driver that is always aware of what is happening around you. For more information, visit www.walktoschool.org.

October 10

Many times, when children walk to school they are with friends and could be easily distracted. When distracted, children are less likely to follow sound safety procedures. If you're a driver, avoiding distractions – including staying off your cell phone – could save a child's life, or your own. In 2008, nearly 6,000 people died in crashes involving a distracted or inattentive driver. For more information, visit www.distraction.gov.



October 17

This is National Teen Driver Safety Week. Parents, talk to your teenage drivers often to set driving rules and clearly outline the consequences of breaking them. The risk of a fatal crash for a teen driver doubles with just one teen passenger. Each new passenger increases the risk of a fatal crash. Remember, you influence your child's driving behavior anytime you drive your kids, even before they begin to drive. For more information, visit www.teendrivessource.org/index.php/.

October 24

When you get in a vehicle, do you **always** remember to put your seat belt on? Don't let the one time you don't bother be the time it counts. In a given year, 55 percent of passenger vehicle occupants killed were not buckled up at the time of the crash. How many of those who lost their lives forgot just that one time? Whether you're a driver or passenger, driving around the block or across the country – buckle up. For more information, visit www.nhtsa.gov and select "Seat Belts."



October 31



The scariest part of Halloween isn't the spooky costumes and scary pranks. It's the fact that too often party-goers who drink don't plan ahead and end up making the roads scarier than a horror show. No costume is clever enough to hide someone who has had too many drinks and should not be behind the wheel.

Learn more at: www.stopimpaireddriving.org/.

November 7

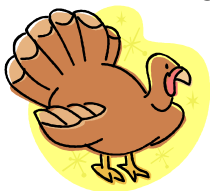
More than 85 percent of all speeding-related traffic fatalities occur on non-Interstate roadways where the posted speed limits are 55 miles per hour or less. Any time a driver speeds, he or she is putting themselves, their passengers, and other drivers and pedestrians at risk. Drivers must stay alert and watch for and obey all posted speed limits, especially in town. For more information, visit www.nhtsa.gov/Aggressive.



November 14

Walking is great exercise! Unfortunately, walking can sometimes be dangerous for pedestrians, especially at busy intersections. In 2008, 69,000 pedestrians were injured and more than 4,000 were killed in traffic crashes. Be cautious. Cross the street at a designated crosswalk, and always stop and look left, right, and left again before crossing. For more information, visit www.walkinginfo.org.

November 21



This Thanksgiving have a wonderful celebration for all that you are thankful for, but be safe while you do it. Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for American teenagers. Be safe – buckle up, drive the speed limit and never drive impaired! Buckling up could save your giblets! For more information, visit www.nhtsa.gov.

November 28

Don't let winter slip up on you! Be prepared to drive in winter conditions before they arrive. It is important to use slower acceleration and speeds on icy roads. Always allow extra time to reach your destination during inclement weather. It is not worth putting your own life or the lives of others in danger to save time. Also, stock your vehicle with important winter emergency items such as salt, drinking water, blanket, shovel, flashlight, and a safety flare. For more info, Google the phrase: Winter Driving Tips.

December 5



During your holiday travels, always remember to properly secure young children. Did you know that all children under 13 should ride in the back seat? As children grow, how they should ride securely in your vehicle changes also. Save your child from injury or death by observing all laws for children and following proper child safety seat guidelines. For more information, visit

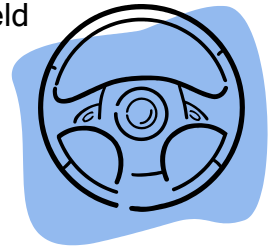
www.nhtsa.gov and click on "Child Safety."

December 12

December is National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month. Nearly one in three of all traffic deaths involve a driver or motorcycle operator who is driving above the legal limit. During this season of holiday parties, do not make the mistake of drinking and driving. Even if you do not feel that you have had too much to drink, one drink may be too much to drive. For more information, visit www.stopimpaireddriving.org.

December 19

Drivers simply can't do two things at once! Do not be tempted to talk or text on your cell phone during this very busy time of the year. Drivers who use hand-held devices while driving are four times as likely to get into crashes serious enough to injure themselves or others. You are more likely to take your eyes off the road, your hands off the wheel, and your mind off the road if talking or texting while driving. Driving is not the time for multi-tasking! For more information, visit www.distraction.gov.



December 26

Each year, thousands of teens are killed or injured in traffic crashes as a result of underage drinking. Parents should always stress to their teenage drivers that underage drinking is illegal and can have disastrous consequences. Besides putting themselves and others at risk, violators of underage drinking laws can face a trip to jail, the loss of their driver's license, and dozens of other unanticipated expenses, including attorney fees, court costs, and other fines. Plus, there is the added embarrassment, humiliation, and potential loss and consequences related to academic eligibility, college acceptance, scholarship awards, and more. For more information, visit www.nhtsa.gov/Teen-Drivers.
