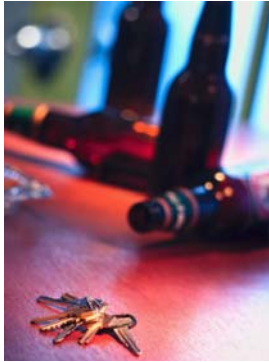


WEEKLY TRAFFIC SAFETY REMINDERS

JULY-SEPTEMBER 2011



July 3

Have a safe and happy 4th of July! Enjoy this joyful time with your family and friends, but be aware of the risks associated with the celebrations — alcohol impaired drivers. Even when *you* make the right choices, others on the road with you don't always do the same. Be extra alert, practice defensive driving, and make sure everyone in your car is wearing their seat belt! For more information, visit www.stopimpaireddriving.org.

July 10

A child's body heats up 3 to 5 times faster than an adult's. In just minutes, a child left in a car can become dangerously overheated and die from hyperthermia (heatstroke). *Never* leave a child unattended in a vehicle, even with the window open. Last year, more than 49 children died while alone in a vehicle. Help prevent tragedies like these from occurring in our community. Dial 911 immediately if you see an unattended child in a car. For more information, visit www.safekids.org/nlyca.

July 17



Road trips and family vacations are summer traditions. With kids enjoying warmer weather and a break from school, it's a great time to hit the road and have some fun. As you plan your family's summer getaway, keep their safety in mind, too. In an average year, more than 3,500 Hispanics are killed in motor vehicle crashes. Make seat belts and driving the speed limit a requirement in your vehicle, and take your time to get to your destination safe and sound. For more information, visit www.nhtsa.gov and click on "Driving Safety."

July 24

Although cell phones are convenient, it's important to hang up your phone when you drive. Of those hurt in crashes related to distracted driving (in 2009), 24,000 people reported cell phones as a distraction! For more information, visit www.distraction.gov.

July 31

In 2009, 1,483 lives were saved by motorcycle helmets, yet almost one-fourth of motorcyclists still don't wear one. Even if you're an experienced rider, it doesn't mean that you're invincible — you can't control the actions of the cars sharing the road with you. Use your head by protecting it with a helmet, whether you're a rider or passenger, to help keep you safe and less vulnerable on a motorcycle. For more information, visit www.nhtsa.gov. Click on "Driving Safety" and choose "Motorcycles."



August 7

When you come to a red light, you know what it means — STOP! But when you come to a yellow light, do you slow down (like you should), or do you hurry to beat the light? This is National Stop on Red Week, reminding you to slow down and make sure to stop for red lights. Being in a rush isn't worth risking your safety or the safety of those on the other side of the street. For more information, visit www.stopredlightrunning.com.



August 14



It's almost time to head back to school! Help make our community safer for pedestrians and bicyclists of all ages by taking extra time to watch for them and giving them plenty of space to walk or ride. Well over 4,000 people were killed in traffic crashes while walking or riding a bicycle in 2009. This year, let's work to make the streets safe for all, whether you walk, bike, or ride. For more information, visit www.nhtsa.gov. Click on "Driving Safety" and choose "Bicycles" or "Pedestrians."

August 21

In an average year, 40 percent of Hispanic drivers killed in motor vehicle traffic crashes are alcohol impaired — sadly, a very high number. But thankfully, there's a very simple solution, don't drink and drive! Now through Labor Day weekend, cops are cracking down on alcohol-impaired drivers, working to help make the roads safer for our community. For more information, visit www.stopimpaireddriving.org.

August 28



This month, many new drivers will be getting behind the wheel and driving to school. Set the standard for good driving: wear your seat belt, be patient, and don't give in to distractions. As you teach them, you can refresh your skills and become a better, safer driver too. For more information, visit www.nhtsa.gov and select "Teen Driving."

September 4

With Labor Day tomorrow, hopefully you will have the day off to enjoy time with your family. But many will be taking advantage of the day of rest by overindulging in alcohol. If you see a loved one who has been drinking getting ready to drive home, get involved. Take their keys and give them a ride. Although you can't stop every impaired driver, every time you help the roads get a little safer. For more information, visit www.stopimpaireddriving.org.



September 11

Today is Grandparent's Day. One important lesson you can learn from your grandparents is patience, which is especially important when driving. More than 10,500 people lost their lives in speeding-related crashes in 2009. Take your time when traveling. It's far better to be a few minutes late than to never arrive at all. For more information, visit www.nhtsa.gov. Click on "Driving Safety" and choose "Aggressive Driving."

September 18

This week is Child Passenger Safety Week. Take this opportunity to have your car seat checked by a professional. In an average year, 51 percent of Hispanic children (ages 14 and under) killed in passenger vehicles are unrestrained at the time of the crash. Your children's safety is *your* responsibility. Show them your love by keeping them as safe as possible when you travel. For more information, visit www.nhtsa.gov and click on "Child Safety."



September 25

Every day, children in our community scramble to and from school buses. Be alert when you see a bus or are near a school bus stop. Children may run into the street without looking for traffic. And if the lights are flashing, then the kids are about to get on or off the bus. Stop your vehicle and wait until the red lights are no longer flashing, the extended stop sign is withdrawn, and the bus begins moving. For more information, visit www.nhtsa.gov. Click on "Driving Safety" and choose "School Buses."
