

You're Not Only A Parent. You're A Safety Feature.

Nothing kills more teenagers than car crashes. Luckily many get help from an important safety feature - parents!! Whether your teen is getting ready to start Driver's Ed, has a learner's permit or recently began driving, your influence matters.

Here are some helpful tips to keep your teen drivers safe:

1. Don't let your teen ride with drivers who have less than a year's experience. Most teen passengers who die on the road are riding with teen drivers.
2. Keep up the driving lessons even after your teen has a license. Those first months of independent driving are the most risky.
3. Want to set limits on your teen's driving? A teen-parent driving agreement can help make rules and consequences clear.
4. Peer passengers are a deadly risk for teen drivers. Don't allow child or teen passengers until your teen has been driving independently for at least six months (or 1,000 miles). Limit teen passengers to no more than one for the following six months.
5. Set clear rules about safe driving. Teens with parents who set limits on driving are less likely to have crashes, engage in risky driving, or get tickets.
6. Talk to your teen about passenger distraction. Only 1 in 10 teens knows that they're more likely to crash if they have peer passengers in the car.
7. Teens driving without a fixed destination are at a higher risk of getting into a crash. Know where they are going, whom they'll be with and when they will be home.
8. Most teen crashes are the result of "rookie mistakes". Make sure your teen gets lots of supervised practice even after getting a license.
9. Nighttime is dangerous for new drivers. Don't let your teen drive after 10:00 p.m. without adult supervision for at least 6 months (or 1,000 miles) after getting a license.
10. Make sure your teen's supervised driving practice includes different times of day, routes, as well as various road and weather conditions.

SAVING TEEN LIVES!!

National Teen Driver Safety Week was established by Congress in 2007 to focus attention on the nation's epidemic of teen car crashes and to find solutions to lower teen drivers' fatal crash risk. The "Ride Like A Friend" initiative is supported by the traffic safety experts at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) and State Farm Insurance Companies. The campaign encourages passenger behaviors that reduce crash risk, including wearing a seatbelt, minimizing distractions, and respecting the driver.

For more information on National Teen Driver Safety Week you can visit the following websites:

www.NTDSW2008.org

www.RideLikeAFriend.com

www.RaisingSafeDrivers.org



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NATIONAL TEEN DRIVER SAFETY WEEK 2008

TEEN PASSENGER SAFETY



OCTOBER 19 - 25, 2008

MARYLAND LAW FOR PASSENGER RESTRICTIONS

Effective October 1, 2005 – Maryland House Bill 393 (Chapter 542) prohibits minors, holding a provisional driver's license, from transporting individuals under the age of 18 years as passengers except family members. The bill requires the prohibition to be in effect for 5 months from the date of the provisional license's issuance and exempts passengers that are family of the same address. The bill also provides that the enforcement of the passenger violation is allowable only as a secondary offense when detained for another suspected violation.

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“PASSENGER'S ED” FOR TEENS

Many parents worry about the risks teens face as new drivers. But how about as passengers? More than half of teens who die in traffic crashes are not behind the wheel. And teens' chances of getting in a fatal crash rise sharply if they ride with a teen driver.

Teen passengers can lower this risk by riding like a friend: limiting distractions, respecting the driver, and always wearing a seat belt. Here are six quick tips for teaching your teen “Passenger’s Ed”:

1. Talk about how to be a safe passenger, beginning at age 12.
2. Insist on seat belts.
3. Don't let your child ride with a driver who has less than a year's experience.
4. Monitor your child's travel.
5. Create a code word to signal trouble and help your teen get out of unsafe situations.
6. Set a good example.

THE STATISTICS DON'T LIE!!!

- Fatal crash rates are higher at all times of the day for 16-year-olds than for older drivers, but in any given mile driven, teens are twice as likely to crash at night (9 p.m. to 6 a.m.) than during the day. Forty-two percent of young teens' nighttime crashes occur before midnight. (IIHS, Fatality Facts 2005: Teenagers)
- The percentage of fatal crashes involving 16 year-olds carrying three or more passengers was reduced by half between 1996 and 2005. Researchers attribute this success to graduated drivers licensing laws (GDL). (Ferguson et al., Progress in teenage crash risk during the last decade. *Journal of Safety Research* 2007)
- Based on estimated miles traveled annually, teen drivers ages 16 to 19 have a fatality rate four times the rate of drivers ages 25 to 69. Sixteen-year-old drivers have a crash rate three times more than 17-year-olds, 5 times greater than 18-year-olds, and two times that of 85-year-olds. (NHTSA, 2001)
- Evaluations of GDL programs comparing rates before and after GDL implementation in individual states have reported reductions in crash rates of novice drivers ranging from 11 to 32 percent. (Chen/Baker/Li, Graduated driver licensing programs and fatal crashes of 16-year-old drivers: A national evaluation, *Pediatrics*, July 2006.)

“60% of teens know inexperience heavily influences safety, but only 15% correctly view their peers as inexperienced drivers.”

One of the biggest dangers facing teenagers may be sitting right next to them. Nothing kills more teens than car crashes, and little is riskier for new drivers than teen passengers.

Studies confirm: Teen Drivers + Peer Passengers = Higher Fatal Crash Risk



1 passenger = 2x Fatal Crash Risk



3 or more passengers = 4-5x Fatal Crash Risk

“Two out of every three teenagers who die in crashes are passengers in a vehicle driven by another teen.”

DID YOU KNOW???

1. **Distractions are deadly for teen drivers.** Distractions are the No. 1 reason new drivers crash, and car crashes are the leading killer of teens.
2. **Peer passengers are a major factor in fatal teen crashes.** Just one teen passenger doubles the risk a teen driver will get in a fatal crash. Having three or more peer passengers quadruples the risk.
3. **Few teens know about this risk.** Only 1 in 10 teens consider the presence of peer passengers to influence their safety.
4. **Teens can “ride like a friend” by wearing a seat-belt, reducing distractions, respecting the driver, and helping the driver if asked.** These safe passenger behaviors will help reduce crash risk and injuries and death due to crashes.
5. **Teens should limit peer passengers during the first year of independent driving.** Fatal crash risk hits a lifetime high in the first six months of independent driving. Teen drivers should have no passengers under age 21 during the first six months after licensure, and no more than one peer passenger for the second six months.
6. **Teen passengers should not ride with novice drivers.** Most teen passengers who die on the road are riding with teen drivers. Teens should not ride with peers for at least the first six months of independent driving.

“Teen drivers are four times more likely to be involved in a distraction-related collision than any other age group.”