

For all new drivers, here's the 411 on Speeding



In 1998, speeding was a contributing factor in 30% of all fatal crashes, and 12,477 lives were lost in speeding-related crashes.



In 1998, 37% of the male drivers 15 to 20 years old who were involved in fatal crashes were speeding at the time of the crash.

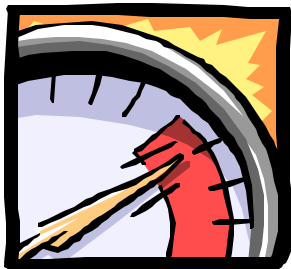


Of the 935 total traffic fatalities in Virginia in 1998, approximately 21% were speeding-related.



Speeding reduces a driver's ability to steer safely around curves or objects in the roadway, extends the distance necessary to stop a vehicle, and increases the distance a vehicle travels while the driver reacts to a dangerous situation.

- National Highway Traffic Safety Administration



In 1998, speeding was a factor in:

- ◆ 28% of fatal crashes that occurred on dry roads
- ◆ 32% of fatal crashes that occurred on wet roads
- ◆ 55% of fatal crashes that occurred on snow-covered or slushy roads
- ◆ 60% of fatal crashes that occurred on icy roads

For all new drivers, here's the 411 on Motorcycle Safety



During 1998, 196 young motorcycle drivers (15 to 20 years old) were killed and an additional 6,000 were injured.



During 1998, 53% of the motorcycle drivers between 15 and 20 years old who were fatally injured in crashes were not wearing helmets.

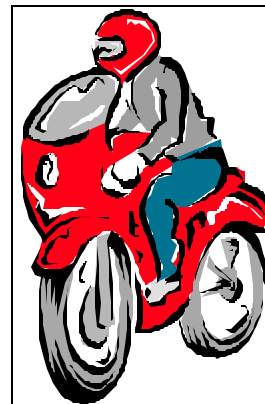


In 1998, there were 2,284 motorcyclist fatalities and 49,000 motorcyclist injuries.



WHY SHOULD YOU WEAR A HELMET?

- ◆ The state of Virginia requires helmet use by all motorcycle operators and passengers.
- ◆ The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates that helmets saved 500 motorcyclists' lives in 1998, and that 307 more could have been saved if all motorcyclists had worn helmets.
- ◆ Helmets are estimated to be 29% effective in preventing fatalities and 67% effective in preventing brain injuries.
- ◆ No matter what the speed, unhelmeted riders are 3 times more likely to die from head injuries than are riders who are wearing helmets at the time of the crash. The state of Virginia requires helmet use by all motorcycle operators and passengers.



For all new drivers, here's the 411 on Safety Belts



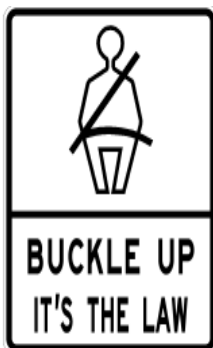
In 1998, 42% of passenger car occupants and 48% of light truck occupants who were not wearing their safety belts at the time of the crash were killed.



In 1998, 80% of the young drivers who had been drinking and were killed in crashes were not wearing their safety belts.



The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimated that 11,088 lives were saved in 1998 by the use of safety belts.



WHY SHOULD YOU WEAR A SAFETY BELT?

- ◆ When safety belts are used correctly they reduce the risk of fatal injury to front-seat passengers by 45% and the risk of moderate-to-critical injury by 50%.
- ◆ A study by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration found that the average inpatient costs for crash victims who were *not* wearing safety belts were 55% higher than for those who were belted.
- ◆ Safety belts protect you as well as other passengers in the vehicle.

“In a 55 mile per hour crash, an unbelted back seat passenger of average size would fly forward with a force of 3,000 pounds — enough to seriously injure or even kill other passengers.”

- Janet Dewey, Executive Director of the Air Bag Safety Campaign, 1997.

ATTENTION PARENTS

If you want to help your teenage son or daughter be safe behind the wheel, the Insurance Institute of Highway Safety recommends the following:

- * When you drive, set a good example for your teenager. Remember, "Actions speak louder than words."
- * Give your child as much adult supervised driving time as possible, even after they get their license.
- * Expose your teenager to many different driving conditions (wet roads, two lane roads, interstates, rural roads, etc.)
- * Be aware of the high risk when 16-year-old drivers and their peers travel together without adults. Make new drivers wait to go out with friends until they have received plenty of supervised driving time.
- * With or without a curfew law, prohibit late night driving that is unsupervised.
- * Insist that seat belts be worn at all times.
- * Choose safe cars. Generally, large ones are safer than small ones, and airbags enhance safety.

ATTENTION PARENTS

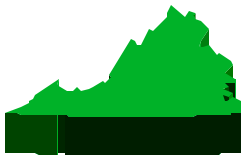
For all new drivers, here's the 411 on Drinking and Driving



According to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, male teenage drivers with blood alcohol concentrations in the 0.05-0.10 percent range are 18 times more likely than sober teenagers to be killed in single-vehicle crashes. The corresponding comparison for females is 54 times more likely.



According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, approximately 3 in every 10 Americans will be involved in an alcohol-related crash at some time in their lives.



In Virginia, it is against the law for drivers under the age of 21 to drive with any alcohol in their system.

How can you help prevent drunk driving?

- ◆ Do not consume alcohol or use illicit drugs. It is against the law to consume alcohol if you are under 21 years of age and illicit drugs are illegal no matter what your age.
- ◆ Focus activities on something other than alcohol.
- ◆ If you do consume alcohol, never get behind the wheel of a car. If the person you rode with consumes alcohol, find a ride home from someone who is sober, call a taxi, or call a friend who can pick you up.

Information provided by:
Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, 1998
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 1998

Prepared by George Mason University's Center for the Advancement of Public Health with a grant from Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles

NEW DRIVER CHECKLIST FOR PARENTS

Driver's Education is a good first step in teaching young people to drive, but a parent's role in teaching is crucial. Below is a checklist developed by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration that parents can use to help a student learn safe driving skills.

Student Driver...	Never	Sometimes	Always
• Knows location of instruments, gauges and safety devices and checks them before driving			
• Adjust mirrors and seat properly			
• Wears safety belts without being reminded			
• Works to maintain a safe following distance			
• Demonstrates correct hand position on the steering wheel			
• Demonstrates the "two-second" rule – you can count "1 – 1000, 2 – 1000" between the time the back of a car in front of you passes a stationary object and the time the front of your car reaches the same spot			
• Is aware of other driver's blind spots			
• Checks blind spots before changing lanes			
• Is aware of tailgaters and knows how to deal with them			
• Anticipates changing traffic lights			
• Checks mirrors frequently			
• Uses horn appropriately			
• Signals before turns and lane changes			
• Anticipates possible braking situations			
• Appears relaxed and comfortable while driving			
• Is comfortable driving at night			
• Uses high and low beams appropriately			
• Adjusts speed to road, traffic and			

weather conditions			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Works to maintain a space cushion or buffer zone on all four sides of the car 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Checks intersections carefully and pauses before entering an intersection 			
Student Driver...	Never	Sometimes	Always
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sets emergency brake or parking brake before leaving vehicle 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates good, smooth movements and coordination during and after turns 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates good scanning habits at all times 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obeyes traffic laws – including speed limits 			

Give young drivers the 411 and help prevent a 911

While young drivers (age 15 to 20) account for approximately 7% of the U.S. population, they represent 14% of the drivers in fatal crashes. Reasons for the high crash-rate include:

- ◆ Inexperience
- ◆ Risk-taking behavior (speeding and improper passing)
- ◆ High-risk situations (nighttime driving)
- ◆ Inattentiveness
- ◆ Alcohol use
- ◆ Illegal drug use
- ◆ Failure to wear a seat belt

According to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, more teenage passenger deaths occur when a 16-year-old is driving than when a person of any other age is at the wheel.

For further information, please contact:

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Center for the Advancement of Public Health
MS 1F5
Fairfax, VA 22030-4444
(703) 993-3697 FAX (703) 993-3763

Check out our safety web site at:
www.safety.gmu.edu

For local information, please contact:

Your local Police Department
or Sheriff's Office

Northern Virginia:
Bob Weakley
Community Transportation Safety Program
6308 Grovedale Drive
Alexandria, VA 22310
(703) 313-9443

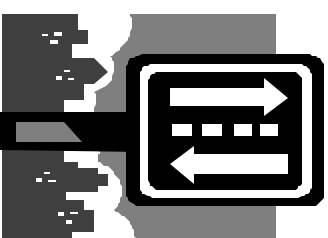
Shenandoah Valley:
Doug Stader
Community Transportation Safety Program
Transportation Safety Services
3281 Peoples Drive
Harrisonburg, VA 22801
(540) 801-0374

Funded by a grant from
Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles

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IMPAIRED DRIVING

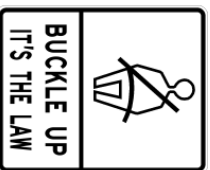
According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration:

- ◆ In 1998, there were 15,935 fatalities in alcohol-related crashes – an average of one alcohol-related fatality every 33 minutes.
- ◆ Among young drivers 15-20 years old, 25% of young male drivers and 12% of young female drivers involved in fatal crashes in 1998 had been drinking.
- ◆ In 1998, 21% of the young drivers (15-20 years old) who were killed in motor vehicle crashes were intoxicated.



In Virginia it is illegal for drivers under the age of 21 to drive with any amount of alcohol in their bodies.

SAFETY BELTS



According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration:

- ◆ Nearly two-thirds of passenger vehicle occupants killed in traffic crashes are unrestrained.

Drivers are less likely to use restraints when they have been drinking.

- ◆ In 1998, 71% of the young drivers of motor vehicles involved in fatal crashes who had been drinking were unrestrained.
- ◆ Of the young drivers who had been drinking and were killed in crashes in 1998, 80% were unrestrained.
- ◆ In 1998, only 39% of speeding passenger vehicle drivers under 21 years old who were involved in fatal crashes were wearing safety belts at the time of the

SPEEDING

Speeding plays a dominant role in young driver crashes. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration:

Fatal crashes involving teen drivers are more likely to be single-vehicle crashes and are more likely to involve speeding than fatal crashes involving older drivers.

- ◆ In 1998, 37% of male drivers 15 to 20 years old involved in fatal crashes were speeding.
- ◆ The 1998 costs of all speeding-related crashes were estimated to be \$27.7 billion – \$52,607 per minute or \$877 per second.

