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Maine Transportation Safety Coalition

Working Together To Promote Safe Transportation In Maine

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WEAR SAFETY BELTS



Consumer Advisory: Simple Tips Before Hitting the Road this Summer

Before you drive off, check out our travel safety tips so you'll stay safer and maybe prevent the cost of an unexpected repair!



NHTSA's Summer Driving Tips 2017

As thousands of Americans begin to plan their summer travels, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) cautions all those who plan to travel by car to think safety first to ensure a safe trip for them and their families.

Prevention and planning takes a little time, but it will give you the added comfort of knowing your loved ones are safe. NHTSA has composed a list of routine safety procedures that drivers and passengers should follow before, and during, their summer travel.

Safety tips from NHTSA for safe summer travel

Perform a basic safety check. Routine car

care like tune-ups, battery checks, and tire rotations are important and help with preventing breakdowns. That said, if you're traveling long distances this summer, don't just rely on your usual maintenance. Be sure to also check your vehicle's tire pressure, wiper blades, fluid levels, lights, and air conditioning before you go.



Check for recalls. Even the most informed car owner may be unaware that their recalled vehicle is in need of repair. NHTSA's free VIN Look-Up Tool lets you see if your vehicle has been repaired as part of a safety recall in the last 15 years. Visit www.nhtsa.gov/recalls to find out about possible safety defects in your vehicle, and help protect your loved ones and other motorists.

Protect your passengers. All drivers and passen-

gers should wear seat belts. When you're traveling with a child, it's safest for them to ride in a car seat suited for their age and size, and all children 13 and younger should ride in the back seat. If you're having trouble finding the right car seat for your child's age and size, you can visit www.safercar.gov/parents for additional tips.

A Note from the Maine Transportation Safety Coalition

Thank you for reading the MTSC newsletter. We strive to keep our readers informed on the latest transportation safety news items that cover a variety of important topics from both local and national perspectives. If you would like to be automatically notified when newsletters are published, drop us an e-mail.

Drive Safely - Stay Distraction-Free and Buckle-Up!

The MTSC Executive Board

Chair's Corner

Consumer Advisory: Simple Tips for Summer Driving

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page 1

Share the road and stay alert! Warmer weather will attract different types of roadway users, including motorcyclists, bicyclists, and pedestrians. Without the protection of a car or truck, these road users are more vulnerable. So put a safe distance – 3 or 4 seconds worth – between you and motorcyclists, and always be mindful of pedestrians or bicyclists. During long trips, take a break when driving long distances. Plan ahead for times to stop and stretch, eat healthy meals and relax, and consider stopping and staying in a hotel to recharge during longer drives.



Store an emergency roadside kit. Even well maintained vehicles can break down, so it's a good idea to have a few emergency items readily accessible for your family's road trip. In your kit, consider adding a cell phone and charger, first aid kit, flashlight, flares, jumper cables, water, and blankets. Even if you don't have to use your kit, you'll have peace of mind knowing that you have these critical items stowed in your cargo.

Don't drink and drive. An average of 1 alcohol-impaired driving fatality occurred

every 51 minutes in 2015. Be responsible, and don't drink and drive. If you plan to drink, choose a designated driver before going out. You can also get NHTSA's new SaferRide mobile app from the iTunes store or Google Play. SaferRide allows users to call a taxi or friend for a ride, and will even help users identify their location so they can be picked up.

Avoid distraction. Distraction accounts for approximately 10 percent of fatal crashes and 15 percent of injury crashes.

Distracted driving can be anything that pulls your attention away from driving, including cell phone use, texting while driving, eating, drinking, and using in-vehicle technologies and portable electronic devices. Please visit our distracted driving safety website for additional information.

Observe "Move Over" Laws. Move over and change lanes to give safe clearance to law enforcement officers assisting motorists on the side of the road. It's the law in all 50 states. For more information on summer driving safety tips, visit: Summer Driving Tips 2017.

<https://www.nhtsa.gov/>

New Teen Drivers More Likely to Be Involved in a Deadly Crash



New Teen Drivers Three Times As Likely to Be Involved in a Deadly Crash

New teen drivers ages 16-17 years old are three times as likely as adults to be involved in a deadly crash, according to new research from the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety. This alarming finding comes as the “100 Deadliest Days” begin, the period between Memorial Day and Labor Day when the average number of deadly teen driver crashes climbs 15 percent compared to the rest of the year. Over the past five years, more than 1,600 people were killed in crashes involving inexperienced teen drivers during this deadly period.

“Statistics show that teen crashes spike during the summer months because teens are out of school and on the road,” said Pat Moody, director of public affairs for AAA Northern New England.

“The Foundation’s research found that inexperience paired with greater exposure on the road could create a deadly combination for teen drivers.”

The AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety’s latest study, Rates of Motor Vehicle Crashes, Injuries, and Deaths in Relation to Driver Age, analyzes crash rates per mile driven for all drivers and found that for every mile on the road, drivers ages 16-17 years old are:

3.9 times as likely as drivers 18 and older to be involved in a crash

2.6 times as likely as drivers 18 and older

to be involved in a fatal crash

4.5 times as likely as drivers 30-59 to be involved in a crash

3.2 times as likely as drivers 30-59 to be involved in a fatal crash

Fatal teen crashes are on the rise. The number of teen drivers involved in fatal crashes increased more than 10 percent from the previous year, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration’s (NHTSA) 2015 crash data, the latest data available. To reverse

this alarming trend, AAA urges parents to help reduce the number of deadly crashes on the road by getting more involved and talking to their teens about the dangers of risky behavior behind the wheel.

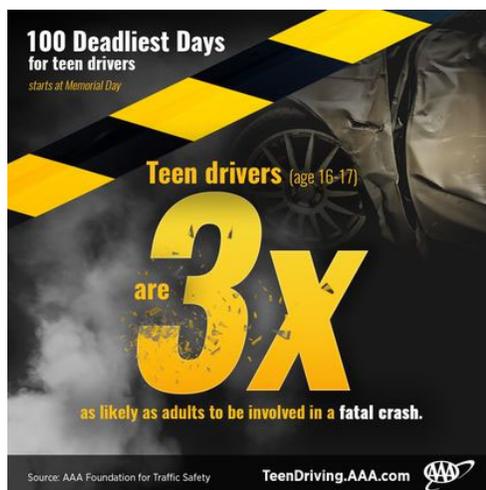
“Parents are the front line of defense for keeping our roads safer this summer,” continued

Moody. “It all starts with educating teens about safety on the road and modeling good behavior, like staying off the phone and buckling your safety belt.”

Three factors that commonly result in deadly crashes for teen drivers are:

Distraction: Distraction plays a role in nearly six out of 10 teen crashes, four times as many as official estimates based on police reports. The top distractions for teens include talking to other passengers in the vehicle and interacting with a smart phone.

Not Buckling Up: In 2015, the latest data available, 60 percent of teen drivers killed in a crash were not wearing a safety belt.



In the News



Teens who buckle up significantly reduce their risk of dying or being seriously injured in a crash.

other safety skills. AAA also offers membership discounts for new teen drivers to help keep them safe on the road in case of an emergency.

Speeding: Speeding is a factor in nearly 30 percent of fatal crashes involving teen drivers. A recent AAA survey of driving instructors found that speeding is one of the top three mistakes teens make when learning to drive.

To keep roads safer this summer, AAA encourages parents to:

Have conversations with their teens early and often about distraction and speeding.

Teach by example and minimize risky behavior when driving.

Make a parent-teen driving agreement that sets family rules for teen drivers.

TeenDriving.AAA.com has a variety of tools to help prepare parents and teens for the dangerous summer driving season. The online AAA StartSmart program also offers great resources for parents on how to become effective in-car coaches as well as advice on how to manage their teen's overall driving privileges. Teens preparing for the responsibility of driving should enroll in a driver education program that teaches how to avoid driver distraction and



About AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety: Established in 1947 by AAA, the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety is a not-for-

profit, publicly funded, 501(c)(3) charitable research and educational organization. The AAA Foundation's mission is to prevent traffic deaths and injuries by conducting research into their causes and by educating the public about strategies to

prevent crashes and reduce injuries when they do occur. This research is used to develop educational materials for drivers, pedestrians, bicyclists and other road users. Visit www.AAAFoundation.org.

As North America's largest motoring and leisure travel organization, AAA provides more than 56 million members with travel, insurance, financial, and automotive-related services. Operating 19 offices throughout Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont, AAA Northern New England is a not-for-profit, fully tax-paying corporation and serves as an advocate for the safety and security of all travelers. AAA Northern New England can be visited on the Internet at www.AAA.com

Reminder from the NHTSA: Click It or Ticket -Seat Belts Save Lives



The Life Saved Could Be Yours

We're all excited about the potential for automated vehicles to help prevent crashes and save lives. They promise a far safer future on our roads.

But what about safer driving today? There are loads of new safety features that help make crashes avoidable and more survivable. But there's one technology in today's cars and trucks that is central to safe driving: the seat belt.

You might not think of seat belts as a safety technology, but they're the foundation of safer driving. In 2015 alone, seat belts saved 13,941 lives. However, 2,804 additional lives could have been saved if everyone had buckled up. That's why NHTSA remains committed to convincing every American to always buckle up.

Thanks to a combination of the enforcement of seat belt laws and public awareness campaigns, seat belt use reached a record high of 90 percent in 2016, up from about 83 percent a decade ago. That's progress—but it also means that every day, millions of people needlessly put their lives at risk because they don't buckle up.

Our annual Click It or Ticket national mobilization is one of our best tools for increasing awareness and belt use. This year, it starts on May 15 with advertising that explains the importance of wearing seat belts and the dangers of not buckling up. If you don't heed

the warnings and obey the law, they will be backed up by law enforcement.

Seat belts are the single most effective safety technology in the history of the automobile. A NHTSA study of lives saved by vehicle technologies found that, between 1960 and 2012, seat belts saved more lives—329,715, to be exact—than all other vehicle technologies combined, including air bags, energy-absorbing steering assemblies, and electronic stability control. Of course, seat belts have been available much longer than many of the other safety features the study reviewed. But they remain your first line of defense in a crash

and your first step toward safer driving.

It's also clear that States that have tough primary seat belt laws see far higher rates of seat belt use. Primary laws, which

allow drivers to be pulled over just for failing to buckle up, have achieved seat belt use rates above 92 percent. States without primary laws, where drivers must first commit a separate violation before they can be pulled over and ticketed for failing to wear a seat belt, achieved rates of only 83 percent.

We have made enormous progress in increasing seat belt use, but far too many people are still dying because they are not buckled up during crashes. Before you even turn the key, you and everyone in your vehicle should be buckled up—every trip, day and night.

www.nhtsa.gov



Safety Issues

The Maine Bicycle Helmet Program

In the News

The Maine Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Program, a partnership of the Maine DOT and the Bicycle Coalition of Maine, is pleased to support the Maine Bicycle Helmet Program. This program can provide bicycle helmets to youth through schools, police departments, and community groups.



Helmets are \$8.95 each + shipping.

Flat rate shipping charges:

1-12 helmets = \$36.00,

13-35 helmets = \$54.00

This is a MATCHING PROGRAM, the Helmet Program will cover 50% of the total cost; the requesting organization is responsible for the remaining amount.

Your order will be processed once your application and matching payment (check or credit card) are received.

Basic bicycle and pedestrian safety education for helmet recipients is required for participation in this program.

Please visit BikeMaine.org and click on "Request Safety Education" to set up a bicycle and pedestrian safety education presentation.

Helmets in this program:

- Are certified to US CPSC or Snell standard.
- Include BMX styles
- Include a quick fit retention mechanism. These make the helmets better fitting, more comfortable, and more secure.
- Are suitable for children and youth aged 5-17.
- Are NOT suitable for use in motorized, winter or water sports.

Eligible Applicants

- Schools

- Police and fire departments
- Hospitals

- Community groups—Rotary, Kiwanis, Masons, Boy and Girl Scouts, etc.
- Healthy Maine Partnerships
- YMCAs
- Churches
- Other with permission

General Conditions

Applicants must:

- Be part of a school, public service, hospital or community organization.
- Commit to arranging bicycle and pedestrian safety education presentations for helmet recipients before or within three months of submitting your order.

Visit BikeMaine.org and click on "Request Safety Education"

- Provide a plan for distribution of all helmets within a three-month period.
- Follow the helmet order guidelines below.

Helmet Purchase Guidelines

- Applicant is responsible for 50% of the total cost.
- Up to 35 helmets may be ordered per applicant.
- Helmets must be shipped to an office or business address, NOT a private home.

Allow four weeks from receipt of order documentation to receive your helmets.

For Questions about the Maine Helmet Program, please contact

Erik daSilva: erik@bikemaine.org or 207-956-6539

Maine Impaired Driving Summit Held at Husson College



With the recent legalization of marijuana and growing concern for impaired driving, AAA and the Maine Bureau of

Highway Safety hosted the Maine Impaired Driving Summit on May 19th at Husson College. The event brought together local, regional & national experts to discuss the challenges associated with legalized cannabis and the growing concern of impaired driving. Attendees learned from experience, listening to two guest speakers from Colorado that provided details on impact from legalization three years ago. Attendees also learned about the forensic aspects of cannabis and driving from one of the



world's leading experts on clinical and forensic toxicology as well as legal and law enforcement recommendations.

Nearly 200 attendees

took part in this year's summit including law enforcement, legislators, administrators, judicial, educators, forensic, traffic safety professionals, and the Committee on Marijuana Legalization Implementation. There were many great discussions throughout the day on collaborative solutions for combating impaired driving.



Safety Issues



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The MaineDOT & AASHTO Held Its Annual Spring Meeting

The Maine Department of Transportation (MaineDOT) and the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) held its annual spring meeting in Portland, Maine last month. More than 450 of the nation’s top transportation officials, including Commissioners/Cabinet Secretaries of Transportation, Chief Engineers and policy staff from 46 states gathered to discuss the latest in industry policies and innovations.

MaineDOT Commissioner David Bernhardt is currently serving as the President of AASHTO. One key area Commissioner Bernhardt is focusing on during his term as President is educating the public on how transportation is a major economic driver.

“Transportation matters as much as all other factors when developing the national economy,” said Commissioner Bernhardt. “We have made strategic transportation investments at MaineDOT that make this truth visible and apparent.”

An example is the State of Maine’s continued commitment to freight infrastructure investments as a means of driving economic growth. Investments such as \$60 million in the International Marine Terminal (IMT) in Portland and \$37 million in rail infrastructure throughout rural Maine have stimulated new activity on three railroads. Those same investments at the IMT lured Icelandic shipping company Eimskip to call on the Port of Portland, and growth in container shipping has increased

20% year over year, opening up more and more opportunities for business throughout Maine.

“MaineDOT has been a great host of our AASHTO spring meeting,” said Bud Wright, Executive Director of AASHTO. “We have had such a positive experience here in Portland, and our meetings have brought a productive energy to our continued efforts to support transportation as the backbone of a sound national economy.”

MaineDOT produced a video, #Transportation Matters, about growing a vibrant and sustainable economy, which was debuted at the AASHTO Board of Directors Meeting this morning. You can view the video here: www.maineports.com

AASHTO is a nonprofit, nonpartisan association representing highway and transportation departments in the 50 states, the Districts of Columbia and Puerto Rico. It represents all five transportation modes; air, highways, public transportation, rail and water. Its primary goal is to foster the development, operation and maintenance of an integrated national transportation system. AASHTO works to educate the public and key state and federal decision makers about the critical role that transportation plays in securing a good quality of life and a sound economy for our nation.

For more Information:
 Ted Talbot, Press Secretary 207-885-7046
<http://maine.gov/mdot/>

MTSC: Promoting Safe Transportation in Maine

Mark Your Calendars and Save the Date(s) For the Maine Transportation Safety Coalition Meeting

Monday, June 26 at DPS/BHS in the Champlain Room from 9:30-Noon
 (Future meetings: October 23rd)

Tentative special topic will be Maine’s Pedestrian Safety Outreach Program activities.

Check the Maine Transportation Safety Coalition at www.themtsc.org for upcoming meetings and events.