



“Celebrating Safe Communities”

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June is National Safety Month

Sponsored by the National Safety Council



EH&S will be sending safety information every Monday of the month!

- June 4: Workplace Safety
- **June 11: Driving Safety**
- June 18: Emergency Preparedness
- June 25: Safety in the Home and Community

Highway Safe Facts: 2005

- 16,885 motor vehicle deaths in 2005 were alcohol-related
- 16,000 unrestrained motor vehicle occupants killed
- Speeding was the factor in 13,000 motor vehicle deaths
- Driver inattention is a factor in 80% of crashes

Your chances of crashing are:

- 4 times greater when drowsy
- 9 times greater when reaching for object
- 3 times greater while dialing a number or texting

Air Bags and Seat Belts When Used Properly Save Lives

Air bags are designed for frontal impact crashes, the kind of crashes which account for more than half of all passenger vehicle occupant deaths. Air bags are designed to limit head and chest injuries. But they only supplement safety belts, they do not replace them.

The Benefits of Air Bags

Air bags save lives, an estimated 1,263 lives in 1999 alone. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates that the combination of an air bag in addition to a lap and shoulder

belt reduces the risk of serious head injury by 81 percent, compared with 60 percent reduction for belts alone

The Risks of Air Bags

During pre-crash braking, an unstrained passenger may be thrown against the dashboard area, in immediate proximity to an air bag. Since air bags inflate in less than 1/25th of a second, faster than the blink of an eye, drivers and passengers who are unrestrained or are wearing only the lap portion of their safety belt can receive serious or even fatal injuries from deploying air bag.

Immediate Solutions

Infants should NEVER ride in the front seat of a vehicle with a passenger air bag. Children ages 12 and under should always be properly restrained in a child safety seat or safety belt and ride in the back seat. Even if there isn't a passenger air bag in the motor vehicle, the safest place for infants and children is properly secured and buckled up in the back seat. Safety belts, both lap and shoulder, should be used with air bags.

Curb Driving Behaviors That Contribute to Crashes

More people than ever before are crowding our nation's roads and highways –



201 million people, in fact. Although the number of injuries and fatalities on the road has dropped by 16 percent, motor vehicle accidents remain the number one preventable cause of death. After years behind the wheel, it's difficult to realize that driving habits may have deteriorated— are you as vigilant a driver as you were in the early days? With a little common sense, a lot of

patience and respect for fellow travelers, you can greatly reduce the risk you take by getting on the road.

Driving Risks

- Speeding is the most common error cited in fatal accidents, reducing reaction time and increasing vehicle stopping distance and crash impact.
- Impaired driving, due to use of alcohol, or medications. In 2005, alcohol was a factor in more than 40 percent of road fatalities.
- Distracted driving accounts for as many as 25 percent of car crashes.

Tips for Prevention

- Obey the speed limit – each road is calculated individually,

to determine the best speed for safe driving. Plus, the stoplights are calibrated based on the speed limit, so you won't have to hit the brakes so much.

- Many over-the counter drugs can impair driving,
- Slow down on poor roads, in bad weather, and in crowded areas.
- Know the side effects of any medication you're taking, and cough and cold preparations.
- Don't drink and drive. Ever.
- Don't multi-task. If there's something you need to do in transit – makeup, phone call, breakfast – pull over, put the car in park, and do it then.