

# reporter

a publication of the Tennessee Traffic Safety Resource Service

April - June 2003



Summer is here and so are those summer vacation trips. We want you to have a safe and fun summer, so here are Three P's for safe Summer Driving.

**PREPARE:**

- ❖ Make sure your car battery, tires, and fluids are okay.
- ❖ Remember to carry in your car: flashlight, jumper cables, warning devices, water, medications, cell phone.
- ❖ Plan your route and be familiar with maps/directions to avoid confusion. Check weather reports. Allow yourself extra time.
- ❖ Let others know your route and when you expect to arrive.

**PROTECT YOURSELF**

- ❖ *Always* Buckle Everyone. Children 12 and under should be buckled in the back seat. Never place a rear-facing child seat in front of an air bag. Remember to sit back 10 inches from an air bag.

**PREVENT CRASHES**

- ❖ As always: *drugs and alcohol don't mix with driving* - it is worse on slippery roads.
- ❖ Slow down and increase distances between cars. Get out of the way of aggressive drivers.
- ❖ Drive the posted speed limit.
- ❖ Keep your eyes open for pedestrians walking in the road.
- ❖ Get plenty of rest before traveling. Avoid fatigue- Stop every three hours.

**Have a fun and safe summer!**

**DON'T MISS THE 16TH ANNUAL TENNESSEE LIFESAVERS CONFERENCE JULY 14 - 16, REGISTER TODAY!**

In just a few short weeks the 16th Annual Lifesavers Conference will convene at the Radisson Hotel in Knoxville. Have you registered for this **FREE** conference sponsored by the Governor's Highway Safety Office? That's right, the Conference registration is **FREE**. We also have **FREE** hotel rooms available for those who meet state travel regulations.

This year's conference theme is "Reversing the Effects of Traffic Crashes." Conference sessions will include: Roving DUI Patrol Training, Keep Kids Alive Drive 25, Teen Courts, Child Passenger Safety Update, Bicycle/Pedestrian, Impaired Driver Training and many more.

Register online today for the conference at <http://www.tntrafficsafety.org> Or, you may call Ron Marshak at 901.876.5497 or send him an e-mail at: [rbl1bdm@aol.com](mailto:rbl1bdm@aol.com)

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## BUCKLE UP OR BEWARE!

The Tennessee Department of Transportation's Governor's Highway Safety Office, in partnership with other federal, state and local highway safety and law enforcement agencies, today officially launched an unprecedented summer-long statewide public awareness and enforcement campaign designed to save Tennessee lives.

Beginning May 19, state and local law enforcement agencies are teaming up throughout the summer to aggressively remind Tennesseans to never drink and drive and to always buckle up.

"Thanks to funding from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), we are working together to promote public awareness of our *You Drink & Drive, You Lose* and *Click It or Ticket* campaigns and to strengthen enforcement of the state's impaired driving, seat belt and child safety seat laws," said Chuck Taylor, director of the Governor's Highway Safety Office. "Our office is pleased to be leading these efforts with the help and support of dozens of federal, state and local partners."

"Our goal is simple," said Gerald Nicely, commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Transportation. "We intend to save Tennessee lives - by reminding Tennesseans to always drive safely to help reduce the number of crashes, injuries and fatalities on our roadways."

Tennessee Department of Safety Commissioner Fred Phillips said increased enforcement activities will include more roving and saturation patrols as well as a significant increase in sobriety roadblocks and safety checkpoints by state and local law enforcement to look for impaired drivers and to make sure Tennesseans are wearing their seat belts and that they have their children properly secured in child safety seats. Phillips said the Tennessee Highway Patrol will be joined by dozens of local police and sheriff's departments statewide in the aggressive enforcement blitz.

"We want to remind all Tennesseans to always wear their seat belts and to never get behind the wheel if they are impaired in anyway," said Phillips.

"Our efforts this summer will also help us raise public awareness of the significant change in Tennessee law, effective July 1 of this year, that will lower the legal Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) from .10 to .08," said Colonel Lynn Pitts of the Tennessee Highway Patrol. "We want to remind all Tennesseans that it is never safe to drink and drive, and if caught while driving impaired, they will be arrested, prosecuted and punished."

In addition to the increased enforcement activities, the *Click It or Ticket* and *You Drink and Drive, You*

*Lose* campaigns will be supported by public service advertisements and special events to help boost public awareness.



Taylor said NHTSA has selected Tennessee as the only state in the nation to help them test and evaluate different mixes of public service messages and enforcement techniques that help drive public awareness and changes in behavior.

Throughout the summer, the Governor's Highway Safety Office and NHTSA will be testing various combinations of enforcement and public communication strategies in different regions of the state that NHTSA can learn from and replicate in states all across the nation.

Nationally, alcohol-related traffic crashes are responsible for approximately 40 percent of all highway deaths. One alcohol-related fatality occurs every 33 minutes; someone is injured every two minutes. The average American has a 30 percent chance of being killed or injured by a drunk driver during their lifetime.

For more information about other key initiatives used to combat impaired driving and to promote regular seat belt use, visit the NHTSA web site at <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov>.

## TEENAGERS AND SAFETY BELT USE

**T**ragically, teenagers have high death rates - both as drivers and as passengers. Young drivers are one of the groups with the lowest safety belt use rates. Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for teenagers. Fifteen to nineteen year olds have one of the highest death rates for drivers and also one of the highest for their passengers, many of whom are also teenagers.

Teen safety belt use is more likely to occur if:

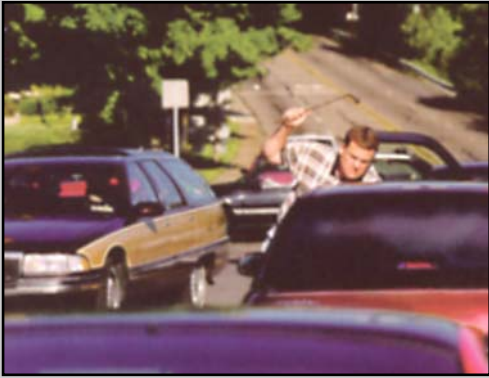
- ❖ **they have taken driver education**
- ❖ **the driver buckles up**
- ❖ **they are female**
- ❖ **they are in a passenger car rather than a pickup**
- ❖ **they are in the front seat.**

Unfortunately, teens from rural areas were less likely to wear safety belts while riding in the front seat of a vehicle. This is alarming since the injury rate on rural roads is typically much higher than on urban roads. To learn more about teenagers and safety belt use visit <http://www.nhsta.dot.gov>



*(Driver's Education Class)*

## WHAT TO DO WHEN CONFRONTED WITH AGGRESSIVE DRIVERS



*(Photo Provided by AAA)*

- ❖ **Get out of the way.** First and foremost, make every attempt to get out of their way.
- ❖ **Put your pride aside.** Do not challenge them by speeding up or attempting to hold your-own in your travel lane.
- ❖ **Avoid eye contact.** Eye contact can sometimes enrage an aggressive driver.
- ❖ **Gestures.** Ignore gestures and refuse to return them.
- ❖ **Report serious aggressive driving.** You or a passenger may call the police. But, if you use a cell phone, pull over to a safe location.

## BIKE SAFETY AND OTHER WHEELED SPORTS

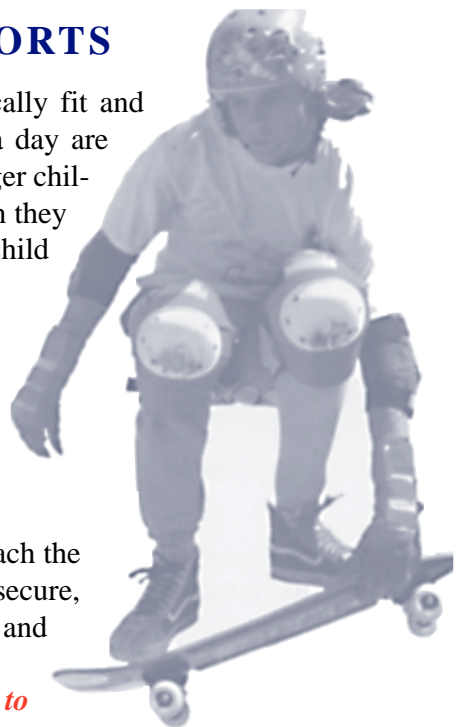
**B**ikes, scooters, inline skates and skateboards help kids stay physically fit and develop balance and coordination. Yet more than 1,000 children a day are treated in emergency rooms for injuries received while riding. Younger children are most at risk; however, even experienced riders get hurt, often when they collide with motor vehicles. The following tips will help you protect your child from harm.

Use the proper gear:

- ❖ **Bikes** - helmet
- ❖ **Scooters** - helmet, knee pads, elbow pads
- ❖ **Skateboards** - helmet, knee pads, elbow pads, wrist guards
- ❖ **Inline Skates** -helmet, knee pads, elbow pads, wrist guards.

Proper fit and maintenance is also important. Your child's feet should reach the ground while sitting on the bike seat. On all, make sure the reflectors are secure, brakes work properly, gears shift smoothly and tires are tightly secured and properly inflated. *(National Safe Kids Campaign)*

**Remember T.C.A. 55-52-105 requires any person under 16 years of age to wear a bicycle helmet!**



## EVENTS CALENDAR

### July 2003

-13, You Drink & Drive continues  
Click It or Ticket continues  
14-16, TN Highway Safety Conference  
20-23 - TN Health & Safety Conference

### August 2003

22-24, Nat'l Traffic Safety Conference  
24-27, Governor's Highway Safety  
Annual Meeting  
Schools Open - Drive Safely!

### September 2003

05-12, Nat'l Council Congress  
07-13, Nat'l Stop on Red Week

### October 2003

08, Walk to School Day  
01-08, Walk to School Week  
10, Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day  
06-10, Nat'l Drive Safely to Work Week  
19-25, Nat'l School Bus Safety Week

For more details on these events, please visit  
<http://www.tntrafficsafety.org> & click on calendar.

## ONE DAY UPDATE WORKSHOPS OFFERED TO CERTIFIED CPS TECHS

Tennessee CPS Techs make plans to attend a CPS update workshop. The workshop will be packed full of new CPS Information, Hands-On Practice, Help with Mastering the Re-Certification Tests and more. To find a location near you, check the schedule below. To register for the class, call the TN Child Passenger Safety Center at 1.423.392.8026.



DATE,	CITY	LOCATION
July 8, 03	Jackson	TDOT, Jackson
July 9, 03	Memphis	Arlington City Hall Meeting Room
July 23, 03	Knoxville	Knox. Police Dept. Moses Training Acad.
July 24, 03	Kingsport	ETSU at Kingsport (Allandale Center)
July 29, 03	Chattanooga	Chattanooga State Comm. College Room C-80 (Tentative)
Aug. 6, 03	Columbia	Columbia State Community College Wayman L. Hickman Bldg. Room 122
Aug. 7, 03	Nashville	TN Dept. of Safety Training Center 275 Stewarts Ferry Rd.

\*CPS Update class & lunch are **FREE!**

TENNESSEE TRAFFIC SAFETY

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### ❖ DO YOU KNOW THE NEW LAWS?

The **DUI/.08 Standard** will become effective July 1, 2003. The new law will lower from **.10 to .08** the blood alcohol level used for determining whether a driver should be charged with a DUI.

❖ Effective July 1, 2003 motorcycle riders will be able to run red lights legally if they stop first, then use "due care" to proceed.

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