

reporter

a publication of the Tennessee Traffic Safety Resource Service

July - September 2004



Say so long to the pool and hello to school! It always seems like summer somehow slips by before you realize it's time to start bagging lunches and stocking backpacks again. From the first day of kindergarten to the beginning of senior year, here's some travel info you need to get your child's school year off to a successful and safe journey.

Walking: Choose the safest route and walk it with your children. Teach children to recognize and obey all traffic signals and markings; Make sure children

look in all directions before crossing the street; Teach children not to enter the street from between parked cars or from behind bushes or shrubs; Teach children to cross the street at a corner or a marked cross-walk; Warn children to be extra alert in bad weather; Demonstrate proper pedestrian safety by being a good role model.

School Bus Safety Tips:

Waiting for the Bus

Arrive at the stop 5 minutes before the bus arrives; Stay out of the street and avoid horse-play; Cross the street at least 10 feet in front of the bus.

Boarding and Leaving the Bus

Walk in a single-file line; Wait until the bus comes to a complete stop before exiting; Wait for parents on the same side of the street as the school bus loading/unloading zone; Be aware of the driver's blind spot when walking away from the bus; Ask the bus driver for help if anything is dropped while entering or exiting the bus.

Riding Bikes to School

Wear helmet at all times when bicycling; Follow the rules of the road; Plan a safe cycling route with your children and ride or walk it with them; Make sure schools provide cyclists with "safe areas" where there are few motor vehicles and pedestrians.



(Continued page 3)

INSIDE

GHSO & NHTSA
Gear Up for Booze It
& Lose It 2

Booster Seat Checklist 3

Types of Booster
Seats You Can Use 3

Events/ Calendar 4
(On Back)

Impaired Driving 4
(On Back)

CUT-N-SAVE

TENNESSEE CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY LAW SUMMARY (TCA 55-9-602) PRIMARY LAW Effective July 1, 2004			
Child's Age/Weight/ Height	Type of Seat	Location of Seat	Additional information
0 - 1 year 20 lbs. or less	Rear-facing	Rear seat If available	} Seat must meet Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards and be used according to child safety restraint system or vehicle manufacturer's instructions.
1 yr. through 3 yrs Greater than 20 lbs.	Forward facing	Rear seat If available	
4 yrs through 8 yrs Less than 5' tall	Belt Positioning Booster Seat	Rear seat If available	
9 yrs through 12 yrs 5' tall or greater	Seat belt system	Rear seat recommended	
13 through 17 yrs.	Must be belted		

Produced and distributed by the Tennessee Traffic Safety Resource Service, UT Center for Transportation Research with grant funds from the Tennessee Governor's Highway Safety Office and the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration.

GHSO AND NHTSA GEAR UP FOR LABOR DAY

Beginning on August 27, continuing through the Labor Day holiday period, and ending on September 12, 2004, the National Highway



— Lose your **license**, your **freedom**, your **life**.

CAMPAIGN

Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and Tennessee's Governor's Highway Safety Office (GHSO) will sponsor an impaired driving crackdown under the banner — "**Booze It & Lose It!**" The impaired driving crackdown, which began in 1999, combines highly visible law enforcement with a \$14 million national advertising campaign — the largest paid media buy in the crackdown's history.

This is the first crackdown since all 50 States and the District of Columbia enacted .08 Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) laws for impaired driving. Uniform BAC laws strengthen the ability of law enforcement to arrest and prosecute dangerous drunk drivers to the fullest extent of the law. This is also the first time the crackdown will take place during the Labor Day period to target the end-of-summer impaired driving problem. In 2002, more than 55% of fatalities in motor vehicle crashes that occurred during the Labor Day weekend were alcohol-related.

The key elements of the NHTSA campaign are highly visible enforcement and public awareness of the campaign. Research has shown that awareness of the law enforcement crackdown deters impaired driving. For more info on the "**You Drink and Drive. You Lose.**" campaign visit the NHTSA website <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov> For more information about alcohol-related crash statistics, visit the following website <http://www.StopImpairedDriving.org> ■

Additional NHTSA Recommendations

- ★ Never place a rear-facing seat in front of an active air bag!
- ★ Some child safety seats can go up to 35-lbs. rear-facing. Children should stay rear facing up to the weight and height limit of the restraint.
- ★ Children over 40 lbs should use the booster with the vehicle lap **AND** shoulder belt only. High back boosters are required when vehicle headrests are not available.
- ★ Children are ready for adult seat belts when they can sit back against seat with knees bent over edge of seat and feet on floor. Shoulder belt should cross shoulder and chest (not neck) and lap belt should rest across pelvis or hips (not abdomen).

Not all vehicle and family situations will have a good answer. You may need to work with a Child Passenger Safety Technician to find the best answer for a particular situation. You can find a technician at:



www.tntrafficsafety.org
or call 1.800.99BELTS



CUT-N-SAVE

GETTING TO SCHOOL SAFELY (CONT'D)

*Driving Children to and from School (*see Tennessee Law)*

Use child safety seats and safety belts correctly every time you and your children travel; Allow extra time in the driver's schedule to avoid driving too fast when late; Drop off children in a safe location so they do not have to cross the street. Make sure they enter and leave the car on the curbside.

** Tennessee Law states*

Children 4 years through 8 years, less than 5' tall should be in Belt Positioning Booster Seats. Children 9 through 12 years of age or greater than 5' tall must be restrained by the vehicle seat belt system. Children 13 years through 17 years must also use the vehicle seat belt system! Remember, booster seats require both lap and shoulder belts and children under 12 years of age should be in the rear seat, if available.

We hope these guidelines help you and your caregivers keep your children safe this back-to-school season. Have a great year! ■

SAFETY TIPS FOR BOOSTER SEATS

- * Always use both the lap **AND** shoulder belt—never just a lap belt.
- * The shoulder belt should never be placed behind a child's back or under the arm. If you do, your child could be seriously injured or killed in a crash.
- * Replace a booster seat that has been in a crash—the seat might have defects that you can't see.

TYPES OF BOOSTER SEATS YOU CAN USE



HIGH-BACK BELT-POSITIONING BOOSTER SEATS

Two types of high-back belt-positioning booster seats are available. This type of seat "boosts" your child up so the vehicle safety belt fits better.

- One is used only with a lap/shoulder belt and provides head and neck support for your child if your vehicle seat back does not have a head restraint.
- The other converts from a forward-facing toddler seat to a booster seat and comes equipped with a harness. This type can be used as a forward-facing toddler seat when your child is age one to about age four and at least 20 to about 40 pounds. When your child outgrows the toddler seat, remove the harness to use the seat as a booster seat with the vehicle's lap/shoulder belt. When using the harness, the seats are attached using the vehicle safety belt system and a top tether anchor, if the vehicle has one, or attached with the LATCH system (for Lower Anchors and Tethers for Children).

NO-BACK BELT-POSITIONING BOOSTER SEAT

These seats are used with a lap/shoulder belt. They are for use in vehicles with built-in head restraints.

EVENTS / CALENDAR

September 2004

01-06, Stop on Red Week

10-17, Nat'l Safety Council Congress
GHSO Training in Chattanooga

October 2004

04-08, Nat'l Drive Safely to Work Week

06 Walk to School Day

06-10, Walk to School Week

17-23, Nat'l School Bus Safety Week

November 2004

24-30, Click It or Ticket/Operation ABC

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

DID YOU KNOW? -

used child seats might be dangerous? Never use a seat that is damaged, under recall, over 5-6 years old, or has an unknown history. Check out www.nhtsa.dot.gov for more information on any Child Passenger Safety Seat that is not new before using it. ■



IMPAIRED DRIVING IS A SERIOUS CRIME

- * As a community we all support law enforcement efforts to protect us from theft, burglary, assault, and terrorism. Yet many otherwise law-abiding citizens continue to view impaired driving merely as a traffic offense.
- * Be aware - impaired driving is no accident nor is it a victimless crime.
- * Impaired Driving is one of the most committed crimes. Every 30 minutes, nearly 50 times a day, someone dies in an alcohol-related crash. That means you, your friends, or family are just as likely to be victims.
- * Nationally, more than 17,400 people died in alcohol-related crashes last year.

The message is clear: there is **NO** room on Tennessee roads for driving impaired. ■

reporter

TTSRS Director

Karen Simerly

Assistant Editor

Lorna Keathley

For more information on TTSRS or to submit comments or suggestions contact:

TN Traffic Safety Resource Service

309 Conference Center Bldg.

Knoxville, TN 37996-4133

Office: **1.800.99BELTS** (TN Only)

Fax: 865-974-3889

E-Mail: simerly@utk.edu

Web: www.tntrafficsafety.org

Governor's Highway Safety Office

James K. Polk Office Building

505 Deaderick Street, Ste. 1800

Nashville, TN 37243

Office: 615-741-2589

Web: <http://www.tdot.state.tn.us/>

This material was developed through a project funded by the Tennessee Department of Transportation, Governor's Highway Safety Office and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration at a cost of \$.21 each. Publication Number: R01.2517.078.010.05

TENNESSEE TRAFFIC SAFETY

reporter

Tennessee Traffic Safety Resource Service

Center for Transportation Research

The University of Tennessee

309 Conference Center Building

Knoxville, TN 37996-4133

1.800.99BELTS

U.S. Postage Paid
Non-Profit Organization
Knoxville, Tennessee
PERMIT NO. 309



Governor's Highway Safety Office

July - September 2004

