
AG SAFETY S.T.A.T. – *SAFE TACTICS FOR AG TODAY*

Vol.3 No. 6b June 2010

NATIONAL SAFETY MONTH- SPECIAL BULLETIN

THOUGHTS from the EDITOR for WEEK 2

SPECIAL ARTICLE: TEEN DRIVING SAFETY

HELPFUL RESOURCES for TEEN DRIVERS

THOUGHTS FROM THE EDITOR for WEEK 2

Dee Jepsen, State Safety Leader

Each June, the National Safety Council encourages citizens to get involved and participate in National Safety Month. Each week of June carries a theme that brings attention to critical safety issues.

To recognize the importance safety has in our lives, there will be five special editions of Ag STAT delivered weekly. The second week is Teen Driving.

For more information about this topic, including posters, crossword puzzles, and tip sheets - go to:

http://www.nsc.org/nsc_events/Nat_Safe_Month/Pages/Week2.aspx

TEEN DRIVING SAFETY

Timothy Butcher, OSHA Program Coordinator

If there were a way to save the lives of 17 teenagers everyday in the United States wouldn't it make sense to take those steps? Vehicle crashes are the leading cause of teenage death and these crashes typically occur in the year or 1,000 miles of driving. And, unlike public speaking, early mistakes behind the wheel are so much worse than embarrassment.

Ongoing research and education efforts are helping with those aspects of teen driving known to be problem areas. One of those is the distraction caused by other teen passengers. Many states restrict the number of teen passenger young drivers are allowed to have in the vehicle. When this is enforced it can greatly help teens keep their attention on the road while they gain valuable experience.

Another emphasis area is nighttime driving. Besides the obvious danger of driving with lower visibility, many teens are driving at night because of after school jobs and they are combating fatigue. Awareness, curfews, and enforced work hours can help.

Another area of concern is the distraction that comes from iPods, cell phones, and GPS units. Teenagers are more comfortable using new technologies and are not always aware when these devices are causing dangerous distractions. Many states and municipalities are enacting legislation to curb this growing problem not just amongst teens but all drivers.

At the root of making teen drivers better drivers is making sure they stay safe long enough to get the experience needed to recognize and avoid hazards both in and outside the vehicle. Once they are experienced drivers, their risks should be no greater than the rest of the driving public. Graduated driving licensing is making a difference. All but seven states require at least a 6-month learner's permit before a teen driver graduates to being a fully licensed driver.

Organizations like the National Safety Council are taking a lead in encouraging research and providing education to the drivers of the United States. Efforts will need to be enhanced and continued so that all teenagers get home safely and become the safer drivers of tomorrow.

HELPFUL RESOURCES for TEEN DRIVERS

Free Enrollment in <Alive at 25 Parent Program>

To recognize Teen Driving Safety Week during National Safety Month, the National Safety Council is offering free enrollment to its online <Alive at 25 Parent Program> course from June 7-13 only.

The two-hour online course educates parents about the risks teen drivers face. The engaging, science-based course teaches parents how to reinforce basic driving skills and good decision-making to help teens become safe and responsible drivers.

Register for free, June 7-13 only, with access code NSM2010. Registrants will have 30 days to complete the course from the date of registration.

Free Download of <Teen Driver: A Family Guide to Teen Driver Safety>

Young drivers are involved in fatal crashes at more than twice the rate as drivers older than 34. Throughout June, National Safety Month, NSC is offering a free download of its <Teen Driver: A Family Guide to Teen Driver Safety.>

The guide assists parents in managing the journey from a beginner to independent driver. The guide provides a written parent/teen driving agreement to help define driving restrictions, rules and consequences.

Ag Safety S.T.A.T. - Safe Tactics for Ag Today is an e-mail newsletter prepared by Dee Jepsen, Extension Agricultural Safety Specialist and team members from the State Safety Office, in the Department of Food, Agricultural and Biological Engineering at OSU. The primary goal of this monthly newsletter is to help you stay connected to everyday safety news and activities that may be used in your own newsletters or programs. If you have safety-related questions or program ideas that you would like to share, please contact Dr. Jepsen at jepsen.4@osu.edu
