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Making This the 100 Safest Days of Summer:

Parents Are the Key to Teens Driving Safely

NEW YORK, July 8, 2025 — Motor vehicle crashes are a leading cause of accidental death for teens in the United States, and teen traffic fatalities spike by 15 percent during the summer months. An average of seven teens die on our roads and highways every day during the summer, which is why the National Road Safety Foundation is partnering with dozens of safety and youth organizations to make this the 100 Safest Days of Summer.

The coalition, led by the National Road Safety Foundation, Impact Teen Drivers, SADD and We Save Lives, is reaching out all summer via media, social media and community events to encourage parents to talk with their teens about safe and responsible driving behavior.

Statistics from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) show about 2,600 people are killed in crashes involving a teen driver every year, while an estimated 94,200 teen drivers were injured in crashes and more than 170,000 people were injured in crashes involving a teen driver.

Inexperience is a major factor in teen crashes, with teens more likely than older drivers to underestimate or not be able to recognize dangerous situations. They also are more likely than adults to make critical errors that can lead to serious crashes.

Distraction, speed and drowsiness are major factors in teen crashes. Wearing a seat belt is a simple way teens can stay safer in a vehicle, yet too many teens aren't buckling up. More than half of teen drivers killed in crashes were unbuckled. Parents should encourage their teens to be firm and confirm that everyone is buckled before the vehicle moves.

"Parents need to be proactive and begin a conversation about safe driving during the summer months, when young people are out of school and doing more driving," said Michelle Anderson of the National Road Safety Foundation. "Teaching teens safe driving is a shared responsibility, and we all have a part to play. Parents, in particular, play a crucial role by consistently modeling safe driving for years before their kids even begin thinking about getting their driver license."

Surveys show that teens whose parents have discussions on safe driving behavior and set firm rules are typically engaged in less risky driving behaviors and are involved in fewer crashes.

The National Road Safety Foundation offers tips for talks with teens in its Passport to Safe Driving, available free online at <https://www.nrsf.org/passport-safe-driving>. Also, a new website -- www.100safestdaysofsummer.org -- covers a variety of traffic safety issues that impact teens, with materials that parents can use to engage with their young drivers about road safety.

Coalition members include ADTSEA (American Driver & Traffic Safety Education Association), California Highway Patrol (CHP), DC Office of Highway Safety, Drive Smart VA, FCCLA (Families, Career & Community Leaders of America), Florida Teen Safe Driving Coalition, GHSA (Governors Highway Safety Association), Gweedo Memorial Foundation, Impact Teen Drivers, In One Instant, Keifer Foundation, Kids and Car Safety, LifeSafer Intelligent Speed Assistance, Maryland Teen Safe Driving Coalition, National Road Safety Foundation, NJ Brain Injury Alliance, Ride Wise, SADD, Safe Kids Worldwide, Teens in the Driver's Seat, VCU Project Impact, We Save Lives, WRAP and YOVASO (Youth of Virginia Speak Out).

In addition, many local law enforcement, county and state agencies are participating with messaging to their local media and on social media.

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