

Summer Driving Safety

Summer time means school is out, temperatures are climbing and construction season is underway. It also means more teens are on the roadways at all hours of the day and night, and families are hitting the road for vacations. All of these things can mean one thing: increased risk for traffic crashes.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, construction zones averaged nearly 800 driving fatalities per year from 2005 through 2014. And according to the National Safety Council, Memorial Day through Labor Day mark the 100 deadliest days for teen drivers.

Safety Tips for Summer Driving

- All passengers in your vehicle should be buckled up on every trip, every time.
- Share the road – be extra mindful of pedestrians, motorcyclists, and bicyclists.
- Summer can do a number on your tires - check your tires on a regular basis, especially during heat waves.
- If you will be drinking, plan on not driving. Plan your safe ride home before you start the party. Designate a sober driver ahead of time.
- Speak up. If your friends or family text while driving, tell them to stop. Listen to your passengers; if they catch you texting while driving and tell you to put your phone away, put it down.

Kids in Cars

- Make sure car seats and booster seats are properly installed and that any children riding with you are

in the correct car seat, booster seat, or seat belt that is appropriate for their size.

- Always remember to lock your vehicle when exiting so children do not play or get trapped inside. On average, 38 children die in hot cars each year from heat-related deaths after being trapped inside motor vehicles.
- Never leave your child unattended in or around your vehicle.
- Before you back out of a driveway or parking spot, prevent back-overs by walking around your vehicle to check for children running and playing.

Teen Drivers

- Limit the number of passengers allowed to ride with your teen driver – a single passenger can increase their crash risk by 44%.
- Consider nighttime driving restrictions - 16% of teen driving fatalities happen between 9pm and midnight.

Construction Zone Safety

- Slow down when you approach a work zone; it comes faster than you think.
- Follow posted speed limits, even if no workers are present. Resume normal speed when the signs instruct you to do so.
- Leave at least 2 seconds between you and the car in front of you.
- Pay attention. Construction zones contain many hazards such as uneven pavement, narrow lanes, heavy equipment, and loose gravel. Signs and construction zone flaggers save lives.



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PROTECTION**

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www.ndsc.org

The North Dakota Safety Council is a private non-profit organization supported through grants, donations, memberships and training.

