



Short Safety Subject

Short Safety Subjects are provided by the Public Safety Business Center, Fort Bragg, NC. Our intent is to provide safety topics for the purpose of increasing safety awareness and improving safety performance. Additional Short Safety Subjects are available on the PSBC Business Management Web Site at:

www.bragg.army.mil/psbc-bm/PubsAndForms/ShortSafetySubjects.htm

Young Drivers



In 1998, 6,400 people between the ages of 15 and 20 were killed in motor vehicle crashes - the leading cause of death for this age group. And although young drivers represent only 6.9% of the nation's licensed drivers, they are involved in 14% of fatal crashes. The National Safety Council urges parents to familiarize themselves with the risks associated with young, inexperienced drivers.

Facts to Know:

- Traffic crashes are the number one cause of death among children and young adults.
- Over 6,400 young people age 15-20 are killed every year in traffic crashes. Over 600,000 youth are injured.
- Young drivers are involved in fatal traffic crashes at over twice the rate as the rest of the population.
- About 45% of crashes killing young people involve higher-than-posted speed.
- Over 2/3 of all speed-related crashes involve only a single vehicle.
- About 36% of crashes killing young people involve alcohol.
- Almost 1,000 young adults lose their lives every year in crashes because of an impaired driver. Be it themselves, or someone else.
- It is illegal in *every* state for a person under 21 to buy and/or publicly possess alcoholic beverages.
- 49 states and Washington, D.C. have zero tolerance laws. It is illegal for a minor (under 21) to purchase alcohol, so no amount of alcohol should be allowed in an underage driver.
- Zero tolerance laws are typically set between .00 and .02 *per se* as opposed to .08 or .10 for drivers 21 and older. *Per se* means that regardless of outward signs of intoxication, the amount of alcohol detected in the driver determines legal intoxication.

Graduated Licensing Saves Lives:

- Since inexperience is a leading factor in traffic crashes involving youth, graduated licensing makes good sense. This licensing system ensures that young drivers accumulate driving experience under controlled circumstances.
- Graduated licensing includes three steps: Learner, Provisional (Intermediate), and Full. Each of these steps include certain restrictions tied to the permit. Restrictions address things such as: the use of alcohol (zero tolerance), nighttime driving, all occupants must wear safety belts, permit holder must remain crash and conviction free for a certain amount of time, etc...