

Did You Know?

Did you know?

In the U.S., eight young people die every day in alcohol-related crashes?

Did you know?

Teens are less likely than adults to understand the risks of driving because they lack experience. Their brains are still developing well into their 20s, affecting their judgment while driving.

Did you know?

For 16 and 17-year-olds, carrying just one passenger increases the crash risk by about 50 percent?

Did you know?

The majority of crashes happen between 9 p.m. and midnight.

Did you know?

Motor vehicle crashes are the number one cause of death for teens 16-19 years of age. While teens make up only 6% of the driving population in Florida but they are involved in 14 % of the fatal crashes.

www.flhsmv.gov/teens/parent_gdl.html

Dangerous Distractions:

Teen passengers can be a major distraction

They may unintentionally encourage teen drivers to speed, show off, play loud music or not pay enough attention to driving. They may challenge teen drivers to do risky things like speeding, tailgating or weaving in and out of traffic. Teen crash rates are lowest with no teen passengers. They increase with one teen passenger and increase even more with two teen passengers.

Night Driving

Driving at night is particularly dangerous for teens.

- It's harder to see.
- Distance and speed are harder to judge.
- More impaired and unsafe drivers are on the road.

Driving at night increases the likelihood and severity of crashes. The risk of being in a fatal crash is highest for teens between 9 p.m. and 6 a.m.

****Before you drive unsupervised at night, you should have several months of daytime driving experience and extensive supervised practice driving at night.****

Wet Conditions

- *Maintain traction.*

Start and stop gradually and drive at steady speeds.

- *Skids*

If your vehicle begins to skid, remove your foot from the accelerator or brake and steer in the direction of the skid.

- *Braking*

Be gentle with brake pressure during slippery road conditions. Avoid braking on curves by driving through them at a safe, steady speed. Gear down for both uphill and downhill.



Distracted Driving



**Hardee County
Sheriff's
Office**

Sheriff Arnold Lanier

How young drivers can stay

focused behind the wheel...

Chatting with friends: Turns out, young drivers with young passengers tend to get in more accidents than those driving alone, inspiring many states to include passenger restrictions in graduated driver licensing. Makes sense, since there's nothing like a friend to tease you or say something compelling to get you to take your eyes off the road. And, sure, no one wants to be the mom in the car, but when you're behind the wheel, it's OK to tell your friends, "Shut it, I'm driving."

Cell phone use: Regardless of whether you have a headset, save that phone conversation about where tonight's hot party is for later, preferably when you're stopped or, even better, out of the car. Turns out, conversing is a bigger distraction than fidgeting with a phone or headset. But if you just have to take the call, tell the person on the other end that you're on the road and will call them back later.

Text and go: Texting is probably one of the best ways to communicate: instant gratification without disturbing the receiving party and you don't have to talk to them if you don't want to. But typing *while* you're driving? Not a good idea — you only have two hands, and they're better off on the steering wheel. Best save this task for when you can safely compose a note. If you can say it in a text, the message can wait until you're parked.

Playing DJ: There's nothing like cruising to your favorite songs. But that split-second you lean over to change that CD or switch to a different radio station is just enough time for an accident to happen. To prevent this, invest in a CD changer with your albums of choice at the ready. And program your favorite radio stations into the presets so you don't have to use the "Seek" or "Tune" buttons to scroll through them. If you have an iPod and your car is equipped with an auxiliary input or you have another way to hook UP your iPod, create a playlist of fave tunes to cruise to so you're not scrolling through the menus as you drive.

Lost in directions: Reading maps or directions with one hand on the wheel can be dangerous. Instead, map out your location and get a good idea of where you're heading before you get in your car, or pull over if you need to take a closer look at your flight plan while en route. Map sites like Google Maps and MapQuest make getting lost a thing of the past by giving you turn-by-turn directions to your destination.



Parents & Teens

It's not just good parenting, it's a matter of life and death. You need to talk to your kids about traffic safety early and often - before they reach driving age. When your teenager begins driving, we recommend that you set rules and then clearly outline the consequences of breaking the rules. Remind your teenager that driving is a privilege - a privilege they will lose if they don't drive by your rules.

We know that getting through to your teen can be tough, but research tells us that teens listen to their parents, and that you influence your kid's driving habits.

Set the standard

You need to teach safe driving behavior from the beginning. As the parent, you can start by modeling safe driving behavior anytime you drive your kids anywhere, even before they begin to drive.

Talk to your teen about safety issues and the rules you are setting. Explain each one of your rules and the consequences for breaking it. Write up a contract with your teen driver to make sure they drive by the rules and drive as safely as possible. Include the most important issues. Here's how:

Spell out the rules:

- Alcohol: Absolutely No Alcohol
- Passengers: No more than one at all times
- Graduated Drivers License: Follow the state's GDL law
- Seat belts: Always Buckle Up!
- Cell phone/texting: No talking or texting while driving
- Curfew: Have the Car in the Driveway by 10 p.m.
- Parental Responsibility: Set your house rules and consequences