

SafeDriver Monthly Newsletter

May 2022



100 Deadliest Days For Teens

The end of May will usher in this year's beginning of the 100 deadliest days for teens. The period running between Memorial Day and Labor Day historically sees the greatest number of teen crashes, injuries, and deaths.

There are several reasons for the uptick in teen crashes during this period:

- With school out for the summer, bored teens are looking for activities to occupy their time and, with their newly acquired driver's license, they have more freedom and options to spend more time on the road and travel further from home.
- They tend to carry more teen passengers which leads to showing off and increases the danger of driver distractions. The chances of being in a crash increase exponentially with each teen passenger carried.
- Teens try to push the limits by staying out later and driving while drowsy.
- Unfortunately, teens also have more opportunities for alcohol and drug use.



What can you do?

- Understand your state's Graduated Driving Laws for teens.
- Understand that you can impose limits above and beyond those that the state has imposed.
- Sit down with your teen and spell out specific guidelines for their summertime use of a car.
- Limit the number of passengers that teen can carry.
- Ensure that the teen fully understands the dangers of distracted driving by texting and cell phone use.

- Set specific consequences for violation of your rules and make sure your teen understands that those consequences will be enforced.
- Set the example for safe driving

Typical Teen Crashes

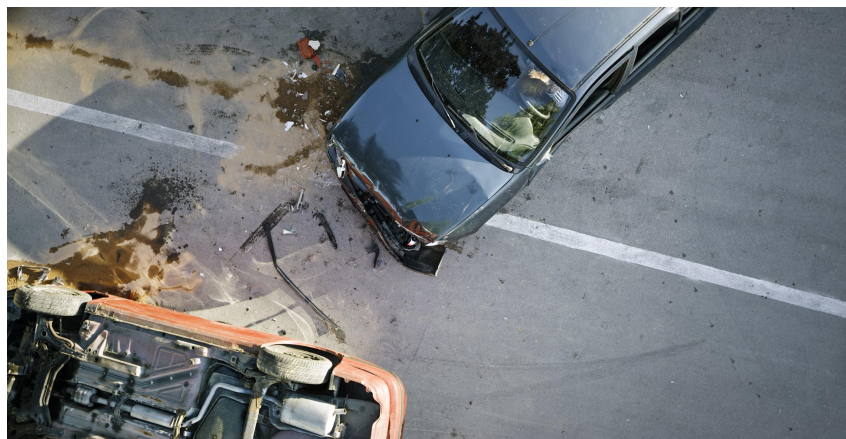
News reports from the last month show the dangers of typical teen behaviors behind the wheel.



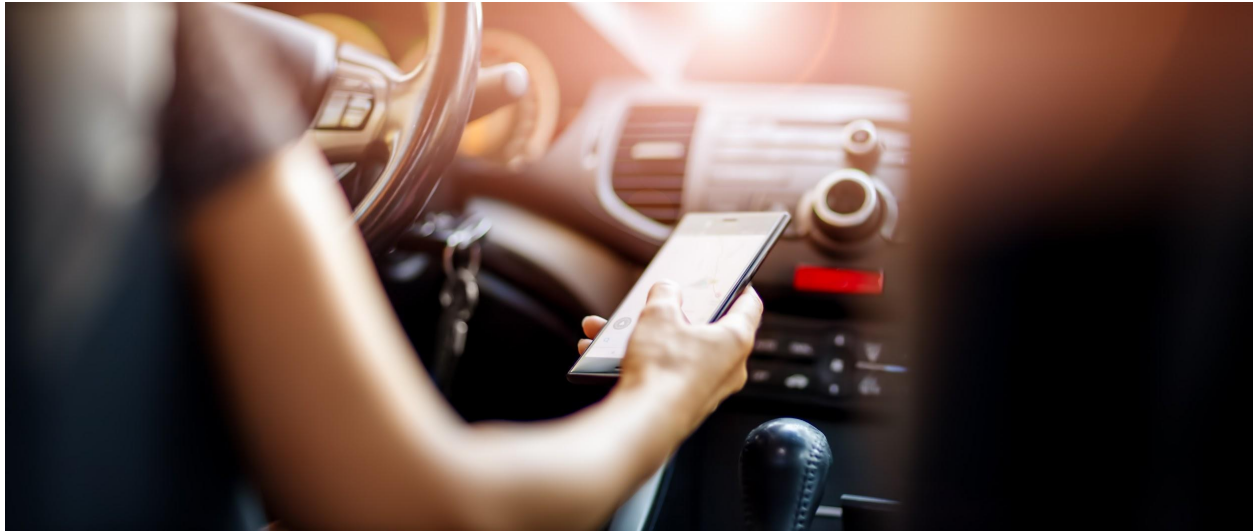
Speeding – An 18-year-old driver in Arizona was driving at 115 mph in a 45-mph zone when he crashed into a car killing the driver and sending her four-year-old daughter to the hospital in critical condition. He has been charged with manslaughter.

Teens seem to believe that they have excellent reflexes and are capable of handling a vehicle at high speed but high speed takes away the time you have to react to a dangerous situation and, at speeds this high, impart tremendous crash forces.

Running stop signs – A driver ran a stop sign and drove into the path of a semi-truck. The crash killed two sisters aged 15 and 16.



Distracted driving – A 17-year-old boy was driving a van in St. Augustine, FL when he struck and killed a 65-year-old pedestrian and critically injured his 63-year-old wife.



For a teen driver, the chances of being involved in a crash increase with each teen passenger the teen is carrying. In this case, the teen driver was carrying five passengers - ages 16, 16, 16, 15 and 14.

