

Safe Driving Teen Monthly Bulletin

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Sharing The Road With Cyclists

On The 15-year-old boy critically injured on Monday night is showing signs of improvement this morning, according to Sgt. Brian Findlen. He suffered head trauma, internal injuries and a broken arm.

This is the second accident involving a Beyer High School student in as many weeks. On October 14 a 13-year-old Beyer High student was critically injured in an accident in front of the school. The boy rode his bike onto Sylvan Avenue where he was hit by a car driven by a fellow student.

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For Teens and their Parents



Source: <http://www.modbee.com> ♦

Lessons Learned

Both of these car/cycle collisions point out a couple of issues involving cars sharing the road with cyclists. By “cyclist”, we are referring to both riders of bicycles and motorcycles.

In both of these cases, it appears that the cyclist may have been at fault. The comments section contained statements by someone claiming to have witnessed the incident. She said that they boy was riding in a crosswalk against the light and so shared some of the blame in the collision.

Bicyclists, in every state, have a right to ride on every road with the exception of limited access highways and interstates. With that right to ride, comes the responsibility to obey all of the same traffic laws that apply to drivers.

Cyclists should ride on the right side of the road, going with the flow of traffic. Cyclists should also signal for turns and obey all stop signs and traffic lights.

Drivers need to understand and respect the cyclist's right to the road. Most states require that a motorist give a cyclist at least three feet clearance when passing.

One of the major problems involving sharing the road with cyclists is that they are small, hard to see, and drivers don't usually expect them so they don't look for them.

[Drivers need to be watchful for cyclists](#) both approaching from the rear on the right and those approaching at a cross street. In many collisions between motorists and cyclists, the motorist is quoted as saying "I never saw the bike."

Drivers need to remember the rule at cross streets; before crossing, look to the left, to the right, and then, back to the left again before proceeding across the street.

For more information visit:

<http://alerts.nationalsafetycommission.com/2010/12/follow-bicycle-safety-cycle.html>

Sharing The Road With School Buses

Just a week and three days after a 10-year old boy was struck and later died as a result of a motorist passing a stopped school bus, a similar, although not fatal, incident happened last week in Scott County.

Two girls, students at Forest public schools, were exiting a school bus at a trailer park at 19283 Highway 80 just east of Forest when a motorist failed to stop, striking one of the two girls although both were taken to a local hospital with non-life threatening injuries.

Source: <http://www.sctonline.net> ♦

Lessons Learned

Every driver learns the rules about having to stop for school buses when they are stopped to pick up or drop off students but it seems like many drivers, once they pass the driving test, seem to forget this rule.

Recent articles on school bus safety quote school bus drivers who say they are passed several times a day when they are stopped with their red lights flashing and the stop arm out.

A single day 28 state survey of school bus drivers by the National Association of State Directors of Student Transportation Services (NASDPTS) found that almost 112,000 school bus drivers reported being illegally passed by 37,756 vehicles while the [school bus](#) was stopped with the lights flashing and the stop arm extended. More than three percent of the passing vehicles actually passed the bus on the right hand side while students were loading and unloading.

The NASDPTS reports that the 37,356 vehicles in those 28 states, on that single day, represent a total of more than thirteen million violations nationwide.

Drivers are required to stop for school buses because children are so unpredictable. You never know when one might dart out into the street.

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In fact, the most dangerous time for school children is not while they are on the bus but when they are getting on and off the bus. In an average year, about 15 school age children will be killed while loading and unloading and approximately 500 will be injured.

The problem has become so large that many states are now allowing school districts to install cameras on the side of the bus. These cameras are similar to red light cameras; they activate when the bus is stopped with its red lights flashing and the stop arm extended. When a driver illegally passes a stopped school bus, the camera takes a photo of the car's license plate and a ticket is sent to the registered owner of the vehicle. Many states require that a driver who is found guilty of passing a stopped school bus attend a [mandatory driving school](#).

For more information, visit:

<http://alerts.nationalsafetycommission.com/2011/08/watch-out-for-school-buses-they-could.html>

Tips for Parents: Is Your Teen's Driving Record Trying To Tell You Something?

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), 5,148 15 to 20 year old drivers were involved in fatal crashes in 2009; the last year for which there are complete figures. That figure reflects a dramatic decrease over the year before but it still means that more than 14 teens are killed every day in the US. Among all age groups, 15 to 20 year old drivers have the highest death rate.

In 2009, Texas led the nation in the number of teen driving fatalities with 556 deaths. That is just over ten percent of all the teen deaths that year. California came in second with 476 teen deaths and Florida was third with 389. Just like the rest of the nation,

California and Florida experienced dramatic decreases in their death rates with a decrease of 22 percent and 28 percent respectively. Texas however only experienced a 6 percent decrease in the teen death rate over the previous year.

One thing that was brought up in the report was the fact that many of the teen drivers who were involved in fatalities in 2009 had a prior record of traffic violations. When their driving record was reviewed, it showed that:

- 12.8% had been involved in previous crashes
- 11.9% had had their driver's license suspended or revoked
- 1.6% had a previous DUI conviction
- 19.2% had previous speeding convictions
- 18.6% had other convictions for moving or harmful traffic violations
- At the time of their death 33% had a Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) of 0.01 or higher and 28% had a BAC of 0.08 or higher. The legal alcohol limit is 0.08 in all 50 states.

A recent study showed that teens have the greatest risk of experiencing their first crash within the first month of driving on their own. It has long been known that teens are impulsive and they tend to take chances with the attitude that "it won't happen to me."

Teens seem to equate passing the driving test with expertise in driving but, for most, getting their license means their driving education has really just begun.



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The advertisement features a photograph of a young woman with long dark hair, wearing a blue and white striped shirt and denim overalls, sitting on the floor and smiling while looking at a laptop. The background is a simple room with a bookshelf.