

DRIVE-TIME



Teen Driving and Teen Passenger Deaths Declining

Thanks in part to all the work of everyone in the New Jersey Teen Safe Driving Coalition Family

Teen-driving fatalities remain one of two fatal-victim categories that have maintained steady declines since the GDL laws were revised in 2010.

Deaths among drivers 16 - 20 years of age declined from 47 in 2006 to 18 so far in 2017 through December 7, a 62% decline. Teen passenger deaths in teen-driven cars dropped from 30 in 2007 to just 2 so far this year, a 93% drop.



The New Jersey GDL and its decal requirement still remains controversial, especially its feature requiring first-year drivers to have the red identifier tag on license plates of the vehicles they operate which alerts police to their novice status. These measures are working and with our increased education efforts, both teens AND their parents have a better understanding of how and why New Jersey's GDL works. As well as we are doing we can do better, ZERO is the only acceptable number.

The Teen Safe Driving Coalition has been seeking and supports legislation that would influence drivers of all ages. One proposal would require parents to attend a 90-minute driver education class with their teen prior to beginning driver education in school. Another would require 50 practice hours, 10 of which at night, as a minimum. This is a requirement in most states but not in New Jersey.

To read more on this, check out the Road Warrior column at

<http://www.northjersey.com/story/news/2017/12/15/nj-walking-deaths-nearing-25-year-record/946157001/>

The Most Effective

Way to Reduce Slips and Falls on Ice & Snow for Crossing Guards

Snow covered corners caused by snow plows is a hazard for both the crossing guard and pedestrians.



Crossing Guards have one of the most dangerous jobs in your community. If stepping out into traffic to stop cars armed only with a sign wasn't hazardous enough, they have to do it in all kinds of weather. A real concern is in winter when their corners can be covered or obscured by piles of snow making visibility a problem for both driver and the crossing guard.

Generally speaking there are two proven methods of mitigating the risk of slips and falls for crossing guards; Clean (or housekeep) the corner and crosswalk, and Improve the Traction underfoot.

Each municipality should ensure that corners and crosswalks where children walk to school are cleared prior to school opening. Crossing guards upon arriving to their posts should do a post review to identify hazards and to make sure all traffic control devices are in working order. They should also report to their supervisor within the police department if the crosswalk or corner is not cleared of snow. Plowed snow can block curb ramps, cause water and slush to accumulate and reduce sight lines for motorists as well as cause an increase in school drop-off and pick-up traffic.

The most effective method in preventing slips and falls is to improve the traction under the crossing guards feet.

With every step your crossing guards take, whether it's indoors or out, there is a measurable level of friction between the bottom of their footwear and the surface that they are walking on. The success of each step is dependent upon this level of friction. If the friction level is high enough traction is created and walking is easy and safe, but if the friction drops below a certain point and traction is minimized, every step becomes hazardous.



Visibility in the winter months is a challenge for both the guard and drivers.

Friction will vary widely from one walking surface to the next as well as one type of shoe to another. Factoring in all types of soles, walking surfaces and grades there are an exponential amount of resulting levels of friction. Despite this fact, generally speaking, most footwear on a normal flat walking surface will be safe. However, once you introduce a contaminant to the walking surface such as ice, snow and slush normal soled shoes will rarely offer enough traction to create a safe walking condition.

The slippery elements of winter; ice, slush and snow will mercilessly render almost walking surface unsafe. If crossing guards must walk in these conditions the minimal levels of friction that exist every time they plant their foot will bring treachery to each step and the risk of slipping and falling will permeate your guards.

The trick here is to offset this loss of traction, and the simplest and most effective way to do that is with a category of safety items known as Traction Aids.

Traction aids are any type of product that can be worn on your feet that will serve to increase walking traction. The idea is simple, as the contaminant (ice, snow or slush) has coated the walking surface Traction Aids provide the guard with a passive method of negating the slippery surface. While it's still necessary to walk with caution even with Traction Aids, merely the idea of having enhanced traction underfoot will enable your crossing guards to walk more safely than with any normal rubber soled shoe.

Where can you get Traction Aids? Do what I do, go to Amazon and search. Traction Aids for almost any type of shoe will come up ranging from 7 to 75 dollars. Even ladies dress shoes and heels! (Livingston). The products are all intended to serve the same purpose and that's to increase the traction underfoot to a level that is safe for walking.



It's the Law in New Jersey!

Winter Driving Tips

- ✦ Drive slow (at or below the posted speed limit) and adjust your speed for the changing road conditions.
- ✦ Turn on your headlights, using low beams when traveling in snow.
- ✦ Increase your following distance. In winter weather, travel at least eight to ten-seconds behind the car in front of you.
- ✦ Give snowplows plenty of room to work. Don't tailgate and try not to pass. If you must pass, take extreme caution in doing so. Remember, a snowplow operator's field of vision is restricted. You may see them, but they don't always see you.
- ✦ If you skid, don't brake or accelerate. Remove your foot from the gas, and gently look and steer where you want to go in the direction of the skid (the direction the rear of your vehicle is sliding). When your car starts heading in the desired direction, carefully straighten the wheel.
- ✦ Slow down before exiting the highway. Exit ramps often have icy patches, sharp curves and stalled or stopped vehicles.
- ✦ Have a personal safety kit easily accessible in your vehicle that includes: an ice scraper/brush; shovel; jumper cables or battery starter; blanket; sand or kitty litter for traction; lock de-icer; flashlight and new batteries; extra windshield wiper fluid; safety flares/warning device; cell phone with charger; water and non-perishable food (i.e., granola or protein bars); and paper towels or cloth.
- ✦ If your vehicle does become disabled, pull off the road as far as possible and turn on your emergency flashers. Remain with your vehicle until help arrives. If you can't get your vehicle off the road and are uncertain about your safety, do not stay in your vehicle or stand behind it. Proceed carefully to a safe location away from traffic.



Photo of ice and snow flying off a large truck as it goes under an overpass. Large chunks of ice can fly off the roofs of these vehicle and



Thank You All for All You Do!

from My Family to Yours

