Teen Drivers Need To Be Prepared

Highway Safety Education, Driving Practice and Experience Are Key

“Handing over the keys to your teen driver is one of the most difficult things you will do!”

What can you do?

Have a plan...

• Know their destination.
• Go over the route.
• When plans change, stay informed.
• Provide contact information in the event of an emergency!
• Every day, motor vehicle crashes end more teen lives than cancer, homicide and suicide combined.
• Home, work, and cell phone numbers only work if emergency personnel have access to them.
• Provide multiple resources for emergency responders.
• Keep contact information in the vehicle, list contact information in cell phones under ICE (In Case of Emergency) and in purses and wallets.

“I wasn’t upset they couldn’t get in touch me. I was upset I hadn’t given them a way to get in touch with me.” —Founder, ELM, Deb Maupin

Don’t assume, because when you least expect itEmergency Links DO Matter!

Teens & Trucks Share the Road Training Program

The Tennessee Trucking Foundation wants to do more to educate teens about driving safely around large trucks and commercial vehicles. Every 4th vehicle on Tennessee’s highways is a large truck and teens are at an extremely high risk of having a fatal crash with a large truck or commercial vehicle. Teen drivers fail to understand that large trucks and cars differ in their handling characteristics.

The Foundation is providing the Teens & Trucks Share the Road Highway Safety Training Program FREE of charge to any new driver in Tennessee. This educational curriculum is an excellent resource complete with a driver instructor lesson plan, student workbook, and instructional DVD. Please contact the Foundation at 615.777.2882 to request your FREE copy of the Teens & Trucks Share the Road Training Program.

A Guide to Safety for Teen Drivers
Trucks have huge blind spots called NO-ZONES, around the front, back and sides of the truck. Accidents occur more frequently here. If you can’t see the driver in the truck’s mirror, the driver can’t see you.

Stay out of NO-ZONES

Follow These Rules for Safe Driving Every Day

**Wear Your Seat Belt:**
Buckling your seat belt is the single most important thing you can do to save your life in a crash. A seat belt will keep you in your seat and help you maintain control of your vehicle. Follow all child-restraint laws and protect your passengers. Wearing your seat belt is the law in Tennessee! BE SAFE AND ALWAYS BUCKLE UP!

**Pay Attention:**
Don’t get distracted when you are driving, focus only on the road. Adjust mirrors and instrument panel lighting before entering traffic. Turn off your cell phone or put it on silent mode, and let calls go to voicemail while the vehicle is moving. It’s illegal for teens to use a cell phone while driving on a learner permit or intermediate license except when deemed a bona fide emergency. NEVER TEXT OR EMAIL WHILE DRIVING!

**Move Over, Slow Down, Save a Life:**
When you see flashing lights from an emergency vehicle on the roadside, move over and slow down. In Tennessee, it’s the law!

**Slow Down in Work Zones:**
Watch out for highway construction. Stay alert. Take your time going through work zones. Give yourself plenty of room and expect the unexpected!

**Side NO-ZONES**
Don’t “hang out” on either side of large trucks. They have huge blind spots on both sides.

**Rear NO-ZONE**
Avoid Tailgating! The truck driver can’t see your vehicle back there.

**Front NO-ZONE**
Pass Safely! Don’t cut-in front too soon after passing.

**Backing Up NO-ZONE**
Pay attention! Never cross behind a large truck that is backing up.

**Avoid SQUEEZE PLAY**
Be careful of trucks making wide right turns. If you get between the truck and the curb, you’ll be caught in a “squeeze” and can suffer a serious accident.

70–75% of all truck-related auto accidents are caused by the smaller vehicle and thirty-five percent of these occur in a truck’s blind spots / NO-ZONES*

Large trucks do not operate like cars. They are so large that accelerating, slowing down and stopping take more time and much more space than any other vehicle on the road. They have large blind spots and make wide turns. They are not maneuverable. If they come upon an unexpected traffic situation, there may not be enough room for them to avoid a collision. Protect yourself and your passengers by learning how to Share the Road Safely with large trucks.

*figures provided by the Department of Transportation and Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance.