

# **SLOW DOWN** **TENNESSEE**

TENNESSEE HIGHWAY SAFETY OFFICE

**Speeding endangers**  
**EVERYONE** on the road.



From 2017 to 2019, there were nearly **23,000** speeding-related crashes in Tennessee.



In the U.S. in 2018, 30% of male drivers ages 15-20 involved in **FATAL** crashes were **SPEEDING**.

## What is considered **SPEEDING**?

Speeding is usually defined as driving in excess of the posted speed limit or driving too fast for conditions and can have dangerous consequences including:

- Reducing a driver's ability to negotiate curves or maneuver around obstacles in the roadway;
- Extending the distance traveled before a vehicle can stop;
- Increasing the distance a vehicle travels while the driver reacts to a hazard;
- Increasing the risk of crashes and injuries because other vehicles and pedestrians may not be able to judge distance accurately.

Learn more from these resources:  
[TNTRAFFICSAFETY.ORG](http://TNTRAFFICSAFETY.ORG) | [NHTSA.GOV](http://NHTSA.GOV)

Be safe on the road and **SLOW DOWN!**

- Give speeding drivers plenty of space. Speeding drivers may lose control of their vehicle more easily.
- If you are in the left lane and someone wants to pass, move over and let them by.
- Adjust your driving accordingly. Speeding is tied to aggressive driving. If a speeding driver is tailgating you or trying to engage you in risky driving, use judgment to safely steer your vehicle out of the way.
- Call local law enforcement if you believe a driver is following you or harassing you.

**36%** of speeding-related crashes in TN from 2017-2019 involved drivers between **18 and 24 years old.**

## Tennessee Speeding **LAWS**

- Tennessee Code Annotated sets statutory maximum speeds at 70 MPH for interstate highways, 65 MPH for all other public roads (TCA §55-8-152).
- The Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) has authority to reduce the speed limit on highways on the state transportation system below the statutory maximums (TCA §55-8-153).
- Municipalities are granted authority to lower the speed limits on any road within their jurisdiction, except for controlled access highways (TCA §55-8-153), but the speed may not exceed 55 MPH.
- Municipalities and counties have authority to set school speed limits in certain circumstances (TCA §55-8-152).
- The TDOT has authority to set speed limits for bridges in Tennessee (TCA §55-8-156). In order to establish a limit lower than the statutory limit, an engineering investigation is required.

Learn more from these resources:

[TNTRAFFICSAFETY.ORG](https://www.tntrafficsafety.org) | [NHTSA.GOV](https://www.nhtsa.gov)