



Traffic Safety News and Facts for Employers August 4, 2008

Latest Traffic Safety News

Take the High Road – Share the Road – It Belongs to Everyone

Participate in the 12th annual Drive Safely Work Week 2008 campaign, October 6-10, to deliver a message to your employees—that safe driving is a top priority for your organization. There are many ways to take part in this annual campaign—we urge all organizations to get involved to make our roads safer for everyone. To receive free campaign downloads log onto the following website : <http://www.trafficsafety.org/dsw08/dsw08.asp>

Materials Available for Labor Day Drunk Driving Crackdown

Law enforcement officers will be out across the nation to patrol for drunk drivers during the Labor Day holiday. The National Highway Traffic Safety Association created a Law Enforcement Action Kit with materials in English and Spanish to help local agencies promote their enforcement campaigns. The kits include earned media templates, talking points, multimedia ads, posters, fact sheets and more. For more information, go to www.stopimpaireddriving.org

Drivers Change Habits to Compensate for High Gas Prices

An Edmunds.com survey shows how consumers are adapting to rising gas prices. Nearly all of the respondents said they're changing their lifestyle as a result, with almost half driving fewer miles or combining errands. Less than half are driving slower, and 35 percent said they're in the market for a more fuel-efficient vehicle. For more information, go to <http://blogs.edmunds.com/karl/2008/07/edmundscom-gas-price-survey-95-of-respondents-report-changing-lifestyle.html> . Source: *pr-inside.com via Business Wire, July 8, 2008*

Smoking May Be Banned in North Carolina's State Vehicles

The North Carolina Senate recently approved a bill that would ban smoking in all state-owned or leased cars. The bills' supporters said the measure will protect occupants' health and reduce cleaning costs for the cars. Opponents think the bill could set the stage for a more comprehensive public smoking ban. If Gov. Mike Easley signs the bill into law, it will go into effect on Jan. 1, 2009.

Source: *Government Fleet e-Weekly, July 16, 2008*

Revamped Crash Test Program Starts in 2010

With the overhaul of the federal government's crash test rating system, automakers face tougher crash tests but have 14 months before the ratings take effect. The program requires new crash-test dummies, injury criteria and a side-impact pole test. The frontal crash test now will include assessments of knee, hip and thigh injuries. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration will combine results from front-crash, side-crash and rollover ratings into one rating of up to five stars. NHTSA will list on a new vehicle's window sticker whether new safety technologies are standard or optional. Automakers face engineering hurdles to make sure they are ready for the new program by the 2010 model year. Some groups have criticized NHTSA for not making the tests tougher, but a new administration could add some tests. Source: *The Detroit News, July 9, 2008*

GPS-based Systems Help Managers Control Fleets

Fleet management systems that help schedule routine maintenance and manage purchase payments have grown in capability and popularity in the past few years. North American providers report increased sales because of the growth of environmental concerns and increase in fuel prices. They're linked to a GPS, so the systems can track vehicles, monitor engine performance, manage fuel consumption and set up geofences, which notify dispatch any time a vehicle leaves a designated area. A certain module can even help detect and correct bad driving behavior, such as speeding and too much wear and tear on the brakes. As fleet management systems keep evolving, more



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modules will be available down the road. For more information, go to <http://www.journalofcommerce.com/article/id289633> Source: *Journal of Commerce*, July 16, 2008

Smart Intersection Warns Drivers of Upcoming Dangers

Ford Motor Company unveiled one of the first privately funded "smart intersections" in North America in July. The intersection in Dearborn has special technology that communicates with test vehicles fitted with computers to warn drivers of dangerous traffic scenarios, such as a vehicle about to run a red light. The intersection is another step toward using GPS and wireless infrastructure-to-vehicle communications to reduce crashes and ease congestion. When the in-vehicle computer receives data indicating a hazard, it can warn drivers through visual and audio alerts. According to Ford, research shows that 40 percent of crashes and 20 percent of crash-related fatalities occur at intersections.

Source: *Business Fleet*, July 17, 2008

GHSA Recommends Changes to Highway Safety Programs

Chris Murphy, chairman of the Governors Highway Safety Association, testified before the House Transportation Subcommittee on Highways and Transit to share recommended changes to the federal behavioral highway safety programs. In the upcoming highway reauthorization, Murphy advocates streamlining administration of safety programs, refining the current incentive programs and authorizing a new speed management incentive program. Specific suggestions include a comprehensive strategic highway safety plan that involves all levels of government and the private sector; a zero-fatality goal; and a drunk driving program based on effective countermeasures. For more information, go to <http://www.marketwatch.com/news/story/ghsa-chairman-lays-out-highway/story.aspx?guid=%7B8678927E-27F7-4853-9242-4516A9351659%7D>.

Source: *GHSA News Release*, July 16, 2008

Pay-as-you-drive Insurance Could Come to California

California legislators are considering allowing insurance companies to charge customers based on the miles they actually drive. The plan's intent is to cut motoring costs, protect the environment and reduce congestion. The option already is available in 34 states, Canada, Japan and Europe. GMAC Insurance Group says customers have reduced their premiums by 13 to 54 percent. One study finds pay-as-you-drive insurance could create \$52 billion in benefits a year from fewer crashes, reduced traffic and pollution and less reliance on foreign oil. The bill's author says it rewards people who drive less, but opponents say it punishes people who live in rural areas. The bill doesn't endorse GPS as a method to track miles, and the state's insurance commissioner plans to explore less-invasive techniques.

Source: *Business Fleet*, July 17, 2008

Officers Increasingly Find Drivers with Near-Fatal Levels of Alcohol

Police across the United States are finding more incidents of extreme drunk driving. Several drivers in Rhode Island and Oregon blew BACs from 0.48 to 0.55, levels that would be lethal to most people. Florida recently passed a law that requires first-time convicted drunk drivers with BACs of more than 0.15 to install ignition interlocks in their cars. "Levels between 0.4 and 0.5 are fatal in most cases," one doctor said. "These situations involve people with incredibly high BAC levels but who nevertheless are functioning enough to get behind a wheel. For someone to be walking around with that much alcohol in their body, he has got to have an increased tolerance, which probably means he's an alcoholic."

Source: *Automotive Fleet*, July 24, 2008

Appeals Court Rules Public Should Have Access to Crash Information

The government cannot withhold key data about major traffic crashes from the public, ruled the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia. The ruling centered on crash information the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration collects from tire makers, automakers, motorcycle companies and child-seat producers. A 2000 law requires the companies to report information about defects, injuries, deaths and damage related to their products.



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Industry groups have fought to keep the data closed to the public, but consumer rights groups plan to request the data using Freedom of Information Act requests. *Source: Automotive Fleet, July 24, 2008*

Switch from SUVs to Smaller Cars Could Reduce Rollovers, Increase Other Safety Risks

As Americans shift from sport utility vehicles and pickups to smaller vehicles, safety experts predict fewer rollovers but worry that a lighter fleet could pose other risks. "You're better off in a bigger vehicle than in a smaller one," said Adrian Lund, president of the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety. Sales of compacts, sedans and other cars increased 3 percent in June; SUVs and pickup sales dropped 19 percent. The Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety says the federal government must toughen crash tests and roof standards. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration is researching better crash protection and safety issues associated with hybrid batteries, all-electric cars and biofuels. Ford is learning to make stronger cars in "smaller packages." For more information, go to

<http://www.reuters.com/article/newsOne/idUSN2340705020080723> *Source: Reuters, July 23, 2008*

Truckers with Medical Conditions Still on Roads

Despite qualifying for full federal disability payments, hundreds of thousands of truck and bus drivers in the United States carry commercial driver's licenses. The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration hasn't completed any of the eight recommendations regulators have proposed since 2001, and it's unclear whether any will be done before the end of the Bush administration. Truckers have violated federal medical rules in every state. Some trucker say instead of creating new rules, the government should enforce the laws it has. One federal study found that truck drivers falling asleep, suffering heart attacks or being otherwise physically impaired were a leading cause of serious crashes involving large trucks. Congress started conducting oversight hearings, and one proposal includes creating a drug clearinghouse for truck drivers. FMCSA's chief safety officer blames delays in safety reform on lack of funding and difficulty coordinating with the states. For more information, go to

<http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5ijNvFbFNKbFcySzH3CGPFyNSbu5AD9223ITG0> or

<http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5j8paw-xyDmgQGHCEd7ChJ-elixeAD9223JP00>.

Source: Associated Press, July 19, 2008

High Gas Prices Help Reduce Traffic Fatalities

Rising gas prices might have one huge benefit for American drivers—falling traffic fatalities. National Safety Council researchers report a 9 percent drop in traffic deaths through May compared with the first five months of 2007. Some states have reported drops of 20 percent or more. No one can say for sure why fatalities are falling, but it coincides with drivers cutting back because of high fuel prices. Increased enforcement, teen licensing programs, safer vehicles and high safety belt use are other factors. Chuck Hurley, now head of Mothers Against Drunk Driving, attributes half of the decline in road deaths in the 1970s to high gas prices. *Source: Associated Press, July 21, 2008*

Federal Government Wants Truck Drivers to Speak English During Licensing Tests

Federal law requires truck drivers to speak English well enough to communicate with law enforcement officers, and the government is trying to tighten the requirement for safety reasons. Last year authorities issued more than 25,000 tickets nationwide for violations. The Federal Motor Carrier Safety administration proposed rule requiring applicants for commercial driver's licenses to speak English during their road test and vehicle inspection. Last year more than 17 percent of truck drivers were Hispanic, but it's not known how many speak English and Spanish. The issue could become larger if President Bush succeeds in making it easier for Mexican trucks to enter the United States. The Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association and American Trucking Association support the proposal. For more information, go to

<http://www.montgomeryadvertiser.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080718/NEWS02/807180326/1009/news02>.

Source: Montgomery Advertiser, July 18, 2008



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Border States Work on Creating Enhanced Driver's Licenses

Washington became the first state to establish enhanced driver's licenses, and other states that border with Canada and Mexico are following suit. The enhanced licenses allow residents to enter the United States through any border crossing or seaport without a passport. The enhanced versions cost more than regular licenses, and applicants must show proof of U.S. citizenship in addition to the other documents normally required. New York and Vermont residents will have the option to apply for enhanced licenses in coming months, and Arizona and Michigan are working toward a plan. Source: *Burlington Free Press, July 18, 2008*

Americans View Vehicle Health as Important as Personal Health, Survey Finds

Americans place about the same importance on vehicle health as they do personal health, according to a nationwide survey commissioned by Shell. Results show 73 percent of Americans make sure cars are in their best condition through maintenance, while 68 percent keep physically fit through regular exercise. About 40 percent bring their cars in for maintenance every 5,000 miles, and 35 percent get annual check ups at the doctor. The biggest maintenance issue is the build-up of gunk in engines.

Source: *Automotive Fleet, July 21, 2008*

Author Relays Road Philosophy

Tom Vanderbilt, the author of *Traffic*, just released his new book, *Why We Drive the Way We Do (and What It Says About Us)*. While researching his books, Vanderbilt traveled to New Delhi and the Netherlands, countries that vary from the United States' driving culture. He interviewed psychologists and engineers, and determined that traffic designs thought by most to be dangerous are actually quite safe. Roundabouts are an example: they seem complicated to people who aren't used to them, but they actually reduce the number of potential conflicts and can be just as fast as traditional intersections. He said merging is the most stressful driving task, and that late merging is best if everyone does it and takes turns. Psychologists say driving is an "overlearned" task, and most drivers think they're above average, which is statistically impossible. For more information, go to

http://www.usatoday.com/life/books/news/2008-07-28-traffic-vanderbilt_N.htm or

<http://www.wnyc.org/shows/lopat/episodes/2008/07/29> Source: *USA Today, July 28, 2008*

Web Site Shows Fatalities on Given Stretch of Road

Because of a new Web site, www.saferoadmaps.org, people can enter their addresses to see a map or satellite image of all the road deaths that have occurred in the area. The University of Minnesota's Center for Excellence in Rural Safety created the site to increase public awareness of the need to drive safely. A big target is rural drivers, because 57 percent of highway deaths happen on rural roads. "By mapping out these fatalities, we can visually see what a large problem we have in our country," the CERS director said. For more information, go to

<http://health.usnews.com/articles/health/healthday/2008/07/28/researchers-map-americas-deadliest-roads.html>.

Source: *US News and World Report, July 28, 2008*

Maine Might Clarify Distracted Driver Laws

Lawmakers in Maine might consider an overhaul of distracted driver laws to specify inappropriate behavior. Technology has advanced faster than the laws, and some think legislators should make it clear what defines distracted driving. There's no check box for distracted driving on crash forms, so the

only way traffic safety experts know if a driver was distracted is if the officer includes that information in the comment section. Source: *Bangor Daily News, Monday, July 28, 2008*

Motorcycles Focus of Upcoming Drunk Driving Crackdown

The national Labor Day impaired driving crackdown will focus on motorcycle riders, because the risk of dying in an impaired driving crash is much higher for riders than for other motorists. The 2008 Drunk Driving Prevention planner is



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available data, downloadable material and earned media tools. For more information, go to www.stopimpaireddriving.org.

Small Pickups Fare Poorly in Side Crash Tests

Several small pickups offered dismal side-crash protection in the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety's latest tests. The 2008 Toyota Tacoma was the only small pickup tested to get a top score in side crashes. Automakers have committed to making side air bags standard across their fleets by the 2010 model year. Only a few of the vehicle tested were equipped with electronic stability control. For more information, go to <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/25823041/> Source: *MSNBC.com, July 24, 2008*

House Criticizes FMCSA for Slow Reaction

James Oberstar, chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, told the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's chief safety officer that deaths and injuries caused by medically unfit drivers are "on your conscience" because the agency hasn't acted quickly enough. Rose McMurray, the chief safety officer, said the agency has proposed one rule and is close to proposing one more. The National Transportation Safety Board made the recommendations in 1999. A committee study found there's almost no incentive for truckers to obtain a real medical document.

Source: *Associated Press, July 25, 2008*

ADVANCING TECHNOLOGIES

Driverless Cars Would Be Safer, More Fuel-Efficient

Some researchers, engineers and auto companies believe not only that automation will become commonplace in the next 20 years, but also that it's key to reducing vehicles' carbon footprints and traffic fatalities. A combination of technologies will allow vehicles to become driverless. Electronic stability control, adaptive cruise control, blind-spot detection, lane departure warnings and collision mitigation are available separately, but together they're the foundation for driverless cars. People will have to buy into the systems for them to become widespread; right now they indicate interest in the features, but become less interested the more they cost. Drivers also have to get used to letting go some control. If everyone used the features, vehicles would become so safe that automakers could eliminate some of the steel, bumpers and even air bags. The lighter vehicles would be more fuel efficient. For more information, go to <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/25571683/> Source: *MSNBC, July 13, 2008*

Upcoming Technological Advances Have Lifesaving Potential

High-tech design features developed from 2010 to 2019 could help make the United Kingdom's "zero crash" goal a reality. Some of the potential lifesavers to come out during the next decade could include systems that read speed limit and one way signs and warn drivers if they're breaking the law, a feature that automatically calls emergency services in a crash and more-accurate crash tests. Designers also are working on external airbags to protect pedestrians, greener cars and motors run on fuel cells. Vehicles that communicate with each other, navigation systems that automatically slow speeding cars and black boxes that warn of dangerous driving behaviors are other possibilities. Collision-avoidance systems, hood designs that help cushion pedestrians in a crash and cars where parts can be swapped to extend the life of the vehicle are on the horizon. Source: *Timesonline, July 19, 2008*

COMMUTERS

Commuters Can Suffer from Carpal Tunnel, Too

Long thought an affliction of desk-bound workers, carpal tunnel syndrome can affect anyone who spends long hours driving or using cell phones in the car. "Repeated, prolonged gripping of anything—whether it's a steering wheel or a tool—can contribute to carpal tunnel syndrome," said a certified hand therapist. Drivers should keep their hands in line



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with their elbows and hold their wrists straight. The best position for wrists is at three o'clock and nine o'clock on the wheel. Drivers who talk on cell phones usually hold their phones with bent wrists, which can lead to carpal tunnel. Wrist splints can help because they force the wrists to stay in a straight position. *Source: Occupational Hazards, July 22, 2008*

USDOT

NHTSA Administrator Resigns

Nicole Nason, head of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, is stepping down in August. Nason started the position in May 2006 and oversaw the agency's efforts to boost fuel economy rules. She also focused efforts on drunk driving prevention and revamping safety ratings for child seats. Deputy administrator Jim Ports is expected to take over for the remainder of the Bush Administration.

GAO Report: Improved Oversight Could Help NHTSA Improve Safety

The GAO has recommended that the National Highway Traffic Safety Association (NHTSA) improve its management reviews' consistency. In its report, the GAO assessed how states have used grant funding to address safety goals and NHTSA's progress in becoming more consistent with the reviews. GAO also looked at the usefulness of management review recommendations and approaches to further improve safety. The office reviewed traffic safety data, analyzed state spending patterns, visited eight states and interviewed agency officials. For a copy of the report, go to <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-08-788>.

New Federal Transportation Plan Would Emphasize Safety, Flexibility The Bush Administration recently announced a plan to refocus, reform and renew the approach to America's highway and transit systems. Core pieces of the plan are renewing focus on maintaining and improving the Interstate highway system, addressing urban congestion and giving more flexibility to state and local leaders. The plan would reduce 102 federal transportation programs into eight comprehensive, intermodal programs. Safety would be emphasized from a data-driven approach. New revenue sources, such as toll collection, would be needed to supplement the gas tax.

Source: USDOT News Release, July 28, 2008

Fewer Miles Driven Draws Attention to Reduced Gas Tax Revenue

Because fewer people have been driving in 2008 than during the same time period in 2007, Americans must embrace sustainable funding for highways and bridges, such as congestion pricing and private activity bonds, U.S. Secretary of Transportation Mary E. Peters said. VMT on all public roads for May 2008 fell 3.7 percent as compared with May 2007 travel. When Americans travel less, the federal Highway Trust Fund receives less revenue from gasoline and diesel sales. *Source: USDOT News Release, July 28, 2008*

INTERNATIONAL

Conferences Will Cover Gray Fleet Issues

Up to a million of the private vehicles used for work might be unsafe, according to a survey by Total Motion. Between 1 million to 3 million private cars are used for work, and about 60 percent of them are not maintained properly. Up to 300,000 vehicles are improperly insured. Fleet operators said they wanted gray fleet issues to be one of the six topics covered during the annual Hit for Six Conferences. Hit for Six South takes place in Oxford on Sept. 16, and Hit for Six North will be in Leeds/Bradford on Sept. 30. *Source: FleetNews, July 11, 2008*



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Top U.K. Medical Official Calls for Zero Tolerance for Young Drivers

England's chief medical officer says drivers ages 17 to 20 should not be able to drive with any detectable level of alcohol in their bodies. "Young people have enough difficulty when they first start driving learning the skills on the road, they don't need the complication of drink as well," Sir Liam Donaldson said. The current legal blood-alcohol level for young drivers is .08 percent.

Source: *JoinTogether*, July 17, 2008

Most Outsourced Risk Management Packages Fail to Comply

Most of the risk management policies provided by outsourced providers, software or finance and HR departments do not fully comply with the Health and Safety at Work Act, according to research by Total Motion Fleet Management. "The biggest areas of failure were risk assessments—some companies didn't even have one—and policy and compliance," Total Motion's managing director said. The firms that spent the most money had the most problems. Fleet managers still have the responsibility to carry out appropriate risk assessments. Source: *FleetNews*, July 16, 2008

Psychology Helps Shift Driver Attitudes

New research shows that psychology can be used to shift attitudes about risk-taking behavior such as speeding. "Understanding psychology can help companies to recruit the right people in the first place, target training for their existing employees and identify the need for persuasive, attitude-changing communications," said Brake's senior development manager. Brake launched a new campaign to give fleet managers information on the influence psychology has on behavior, how to use a range of psychometric testing tools and what to do with the results.

Source: *FleetNews*, July 23, 2008

Different Distractions Call for Different Jail Sentences

Under new sentencing guidelines, company car drivers who cause a fatal crash could get three-year jail terms. The Sentencing Guideline Council recommended maximum sentences for judges and clarified which behaviors constitute each charge. Talking on a hand-held phone, prolonged reading or sending a text are all "gross avoidable distractions" that can net a maximum seven-year sentence. "Ordinary avoidable distractions" like adjusting controls could carry a lesser three-year jail term. The guidelines set tougher penalties for drivers without insurance who cause a fatal crash.

Source: *FleetNews*, July 22, 2008

Drivers Can Find Speed Traps, Red Light Cameras Online

A Web site lists where police set up speed trap and red-light cameras in most of the United States and some of the United Kingdom. The service is free, but U.S. drivers can download the information to GPS systems for a fee. Shannon Atkinson, a systems engineer, created the Web site, njection.com, last summer. Users contribute most of the information anonymously. "I've gotten lots of positive feedback from police officers," Atkinson said. "It's the idea of getting people to slow down in those areas and if this helps, they're happy." One negative side effect or law enforcement could be loss in ticket revenue. Source: *Washington Post*, July 23, 2008

Report Examines Cell Phone Driving Distractions

Land Transport New Zealand issued a report about the distractive effects of cell phone use. The report explores driving performance and conversational patterns of drivers talking to passengers, on hands-free cell phones and with passengers who could see the driver's current situation. For a copy of the report, go to

<http://www.landtransport.govt.nz/research/reports/349.pdf> Source: *TRB E-Newsletter*, July 22, 2008



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WORK-HOME

Community, Volunteer Programs Keep Seniors Mobile

About 600,000 people who are 70 or older stop driving each year, which can isolate them from crucial goods, services and social functions, according to the National Institute on Aging. An increasing number of Americans are growing old in rural areas, small towns and suburbs that aren't serviced by efficient or reliable public transportation. Getting rides from friends and family helps, but many older adults are self-conscious about asking. Older people tend to use transit in areas where it's available, but half of non-drivers 65 and older stay home on a given day. In even small communities, dozens of different agencies and non-profits operate vans with few occupants. SAFETEA-LU requires all communities receiving federal transit funds to develop a coordinated human services transit plan. Volunteer programs are springing up nationwide to ensure seniors stay mobile. For more information, go to <http://www.miller-mccune.com/article/484> Source: Miller-McCune, July 14, 2008

GM's High-tech Windshield Would Help Aging Drivers

General Motors Corp. is developing a windshield that uses lasers, infrared sensors and cameras to enhance what's happening on the road so aging drivers can see more clearly. The project, in the research stage, will make objects stand out that otherwise could go unnoticed. During a foggy drive, a laser projects a blue line onto the windshield that follows the fog line. A transparent coating on the windshield lights up when struck by ultraviolet light. The windshield is designed specifically for older drivers, who are on the road more than previous generations. Head-up displays have been available in the past, but this is the first time it involves the entire windshield. Other applications include highlighting a speed limit sign with a pink box if a driver is speeding and using an arrow to point to the building a driver is seeking. For more information, go to http://biz.yahoo.com/ap/080717/windshields_older_drivers.html?.v=2 Source: Yahoo Finance, July 17, 2008

Florida Encourages Bikers to 'Dress Loud'

Florida agencies are launching a new motorcycle safety campaign to encourage riders to make themselves more visible on the road. Motorcyclists should wear brightly colored or reflective upper-torso apparel and use reflective strips, high beams and vibrant-colored decals on their motorcycles. A new law went into effect July 1 that requires all Florida motorcyclists to take and pass the Basic Rider Course for licensure and endorsement. For more information on the Florida Department of Transportation-funded Motorcycle Conspicuity campaign, go to www.rideprouddressloud.com.

As Fuel Prices Increase, Bikers and Drivers Must Learn to Share the Road

With the recent rise in gas prices, bicycle sales have skyrocketed, according to the National Bicycle Dealers Association. More novice bicyclists are hitting the streets, and drivers are trying to adjust to the influx. "I believe it's definitely going to cause some problems, because people don't know how to share the road with cyclists," and Idaho Bicycling Enthusiast member said. Bikes have the same rights and duties as other vehicles, meaning they must ride on the right, stay in single file, signal their turns, yield to pedestrians and stop at red lights and stop signs. Authorities across the country are seeing a sharp rise in bicycle-related crashes. In many of the cases bicyclists are ignoring the rules of the road, but drivers also are behaving aggressively toward bike riders. Transit officials note that more riders are taking their bikes with them on public transportation, and often there is not enough space to accommodate them. Source: MSNBC, July 18, 2008

Bar Promotions Dangerous for College Students

Drink specials dramatically increase the risk of college students leaving the bar intoxicated, especially if underage, according to a new study from the University of Florida. Rather than relying on self-reports, as previous studies have, researchers obtained breath samples from students after they exited bars and conducted interviews. Customers who took advantage of drink specials were more than four times as likely to exceed the legal limit for driving as were patrons who didn't partake. Underage drinkers were more likely to come away drunk than those over 21. Ladies Drink Free Night seemed to be the most harmful promotion, researchers said. Source: NOYS Notable News, July 22, 2008



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Golf Carts Veer of the Course

In the past year, dozens of communities across the United States have passed or are considering ordinances to allow golf carts on local roads. "Gas prices are the driving factor for most of the folks who are using golf carts here," one police chief said. "But we needed an ordinance so we could regulate their use and safety." Convenience is another reason some older residents opt for golf carts. An Indiana city recently purchased carts for some police patrols and utility workers to read meters. The potential for injuries increases with more golf carts on the streets. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration does not recognize the carts as on-road vehicles, so they do not have to meet federal safety standards. *Source: USA Today, July 20, 2008*

With Influx of Bicyclists, LA Starts Conversation on Sharing the Road

Whether they're doing it to save money on gas, get exercise or help the environment, bicyclists in Los Angeles are rattling drivers. Drivers say bicyclists rip off car mirrors and ignore stop signs, while bike riders say drivers run them off the road and threaten bodily harm. Politicians, engineers and residents are beginning a conversation about how best to coexist on the city's roads. Car-focused Los Angeles was named a future best city for biking by Bicycling magazine. The city is updating its bike plan and creating a more cohesive network of bike paths and lanes. One area of the city is piloting a "share the road" program complete with "sharrows," or lane markings that remind drivers of bikers' presence and show cyclists where they should ride. For more information, go to <http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-bikes21-2008jul21%2C0%2C172344.story> *Source: LA Times, July 20, 2008*

Rise in Motorcycle Riders Leads to Elevated Concerns

With more motorcycle riders on the road, people are calling for safe riding and tougher safety laws. As motorcycle sales have climbed over the last decade, so have the rate and number of rider deaths. In North Carolina, riders can get a license without taking a driver test or passing a safety course. Safety officials recommend riders take courses through the Motorcycle Safety Foundation. Motorcyclists are about 35 times more likely than passenger car occupants to die in a crash when the number of miles traveled is taken into account, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Association. When riders are involved in a two-vehicle crash, the other driver is often at fault. *Source: The Charlotte Observer, July 17, 2008*

Summit Addresses Teen Driving

Annually more than 6,000 teens die in car crashes and 400,000 are injured, resulting in a national economic cost of more than \$40 billion. Teens, teachers, school administrators, law enforcement, safety officials and industry will learn more about the cause and solutions at the Teens in the Driver Seat Summit. The conference will take place at the University of Texas at San Antonio from Oct. 24-25, 2008. Teens in the Driver Seat (TDS), a peer-to-peer education and outreach program, will be the highlight of the event. For more information, go to <http://tti.tamu.edu/conferences/tds08>



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