



Traffic Safety News and Facts for Employers June 16, 2008

Michigan News

Governor Veto's Motorcycle Helmet Bill

On June 13, Governor Granholm vetoed Enrolled House Bill 4749. "When involved in a crash, an unhelmeted motorcyclist is 40 percent more likely to suffer a fatal head injury and 15 percent more likely to suffer a nonfatal injury than a helmeted motorcyclist. Lifetime, long-term care costs for treatment of head injuries have been shown to be between \$4 million and \$9 million—far more than the \$20,000 personal injury protection required under this bill to ride helmet free. Costs to treat these injuries would be borne by all Michigan citizens in the form of higher insurance rates. Helmets save lives and reduce serious injury," said Governor Granholm. "For these reasons, I return Enrolled House Bill 4749 without signature."

Motorists Get the Message

Between May 19 and June 1, Michigan motorists must have gotten the message that law enforcement were serious about buckling up, as officers noted a marked decline in unbelted motorists and issued far fewer belt citations than in past efforts. According to preliminary reports from participating agencies, 8,279 safety belt citations were issued during the recent Buckle Up or Pay Up, Click It or Ticket enforcement period. More... http://www.michigan.gov/msp/0,1607,7-123-1593_3504-193935--_00.html

Booster Seat Law goes into effect July 1

Michigan's new booster law takes effect July 1, 2008, and requires children who are not yet 8 years old or 4' 9" to ride in a properly fitting child safety seat or booster seat. For more information link to: http://www.michigan.gov/msp/0,1607,7-123-1593_3504-184574--_00.html

MDOT Announces Online 2008 Truck Operator Map

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) announced earlier this month that the 2008 state commercial trucking map is now available online. The map is a free publication that is produced annually for truckers to use in accordance with state highway laws governing vehicle size, weight and load. For an electronic copy link to: www.michigan.gov/truckmap. Printed copies can be ordered online or by calling MDOT at 517-373-2160.

Latest Traffic Safety News

Shift Work Contributes to Sleep-Related Crash Risk

Sleepiness, especially related to shift work, is a risk factor for traffic crashes, according to a study in the latest issue of Internal Medicine. More than 100 drivers who had been injured in a crash completed a questionnaire. Australian researchers found that about half of the drivers had at least one sleep-related risk factor, and 20 percent had two or more. Shift work was the greatest sleep-related factor that contributed to crashes. Source: National Sleep Foundation alert, June 3, 2008

High Gas Prices Leave Drivers Stranded

Drivers are finding that putting less fuel in their tanks to save money on gas is having an unintended consequence—getting stranded on the side of the road. Some drivers are gambling by keeping their



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tanks low on fuel. Calls from Philadelphia-area AAA members who ran out of gas doubled from 81 in May 2007 to 161 in May 2008. Drivers are making more trips to the pump but putting less in, according to research from The Nielsen Co. "We're seeing a lot of frustrated motorists who are trying to cut corners, and this is one way they're doing it," said a AAA Mid-Atlantic spokeswoman. "But they're shooting themselves in the foot, or the wallet, in the long run." Always running on fumes can damage a car's fuel pump, requiring expensive repairs.

Source: Chicagotribune.com, June 2, 2008

Auto Club Offers Advice for Drivers who Let Gas Run Low

The Automobile Club of Southern California is warning motorists not to let their fuel tanks run near empty. Running the tank dry not only runs the risk of being stranded on the road, but also could present costly repair problems. Sediment in the bottom of the tank could clog the fuel pump pickup, the fuel filter or fuel injectors. Vehicles using diesel fuel must be primed to get fuel to the pump after running out. Motorists shouldn't let their gas get below a quarter of the tank; shouldn't pump or touch the gas pedal while trying to start a vehicle that's run out of gas; and should pull to the highway as soon as possible if they run out.

Study Shows Why Talking on a Cell Phone While Driving Isn't Safe

A new study in the journal *Experimental Psychology* provides more insight into why language interferes with visual tasks, such as driving. Two experiments showed that planning to speak and speaking put more demands on the brain than listening. In one experiment, participants detected visual shapes on a monitor, and in the second they used a mouse to track a fast-moving target on the screen. Participants did both tasks while listening and responding to a recorded narrative. The participants performed the visual tasks better when the projected voice was in front, so in a car a speaker phone that projects a voice from the front might be safer than if it were placed elsewhere. The University of South Carolina researcher repeated the experiment using 20 pairs of friends engaged in real conversation; the results will be compiled this summer. Source: *Automotive Fleet*, June 4, 2008

Free Resources for Preventing Workplace Traffic Injuries Now Available

Resources from around the world related to preventing traffic injuries and deaths while at work are now available in the U.S. National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health's (NIOSH) online library. The library, located at www.geolib.org, contains best practices, materials that evaluate programs' success and statistics about worker injuries and fatalities. NIOSH works with its partners to reduce traffic injuries at work, which are the leading cause of occupational deaths in the United States and other high-income countries.

Drivers Must Take Precautions during Tornadoes

So far this year tornadoes have killed 14 people in their vehicles nationwide, the highest annual total since 1998. The Kansas Department of Transportation is looking for more ways to warn drivers of severe weather and how to take precautions. Three people have been killed in their cars during tornadoes in the past 11 months in that state. Signs near toll booths on the Kansas Turnpikes tell drivers to tune into a specific radio station for travel advisories, but signs aren't posted on other major roads. GPS systems and weather radios can help warn about tornadoes, but drivers also have to use their own judgment. Drivers and passengers should find a sturdy shelter or lie flat in a ditch and cover their heads with their arms, coats or blankets. For more information, go to

http://www.usatoday.com/weather/storms/tornadoes/2008-06-02-tornado-radio-alerts_N.htm

Source: Associated Press, June 2, 2008



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Hawaii to Become 47th State with Ignition Interlock Law

A bill that requires convicted drunk drivers to install ignition interlocks passed in Hawaii in May and is expected to be signed by the governor. Hawaii would become the 47th state to enact an ignition interlock law, but laws vary widely across the country. Only Alabama, South Dakota and Vermont have no interlock laws. Hawaii's law orders the devices for repeat offenders or a first-time offense of a BAC of at least 0.15. Those with a BAC below 0.15 have the option of getting their license revoked or installing an ignition interlock. More than 130,000 offenders pay \$70 to \$100 a month to use the devices. The American Beverage Institute objects to mandating the use of interlocks for first-time offenders and those with low BACs, saying judges should have discretion. For more information, go to <http://www.stateline.org/live/details/story?contentId=314525>. Source: Stateline.org, June 3, 2008

Web Site Picks Top Vehicles for Road Trips

Kelley Blue Book's Kbb.com released its list of Top 10 Best New Road Trip vehicles just in time for the summer travel season. Editors considered driving enjoyment, passenger comfort, cargo space and fuel economy as factors when determining the list. The selected vehicles are the Audi S5, Bugatti Veyron, Chevrolet Malibu, Chevrolet Tahoe Hybrid, Dodge Grand Caravan, Ford Flex, Infiniti EX35, Mini Cooper Clubman, Toyota Prius and Volkswagen Eos. Source: Kelley Blue Book News Release, May 30, 2008

Road Design Can Improve Fuel Efficiency

Drivers can do their part to improve fuel efficiency, but government also can play a role by changing roadways. Designing roundabouts instead of intersections with traffic signals, lowering speed limits and removing some stop signs could help drivers reduce gas consumption. For more information, go to <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=91327101> Source: National Public Radio, June 9, 2008

'Cop in a Bucket' Operation Spots Traffic Violators from Above

Law enforcement officers in Long Beach, New York have found a creative way to crack down on speeders and reckless drivers—using a utility-truck bucket 25 feet in the air. When an officer in the bucket spots a violation, he or she radios the information to officers on the ground. The officers stop all traffic and pick the violators out. "Our main goal is to bring down the number of accidents and injuries from accidents, and people are definitely slowing down," a Long Beach officer said. So far this year, crashes have dropped 10 percent. The Governor's Traffic Safety Committee gave the department a \$12,000 grant for the operation, called Cop in a Bucket. "Part of enforcement is not only to issue citations but to change the behavior of drivers. And the residents of Long Beach are happy because the goal is to make the roads safer," a traffic safety educator said. For more information, go to http://www.nytimes.com/2008/06/08/nyregion/nyregionspecial2/08copsli.html?_r=1&ref=nyregionspecial2&oref=slogin (may require free registration). Source: New York Times, June 8, 2008

New Transport Report Now Available

The latest newsletter from the National Conference of State Legislatures' Standing Committee on Transportation examines public-private partnerships, hazmat transportation and state and federal policy development. For more information, go to <http://www.ncsl.org/standcomm/sctran/transreportnew.htm>

Employer Responsibility for Traffic Deaths Discussed at NACOSH Meeting

A NIOSH scientist, Stephanie Pratt, outlined the dangers of workplace driving at a meeting before the National Advisory Committee on Occupational Safety and Health at the end of May. Workplace driving deaths are the first or second leading cause of death in every major U.S. industry. Employers must understand the business case for traffic safety programs at work, recognize that driving is part of



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worker protection responsibilities, ensure senior managers are responsible for safety programs and manage risk to reduce costs. Source: NSC, June 6, 2008

Sleep Apnea Patients More Likely to Be Injured in Crashes

People with obstructive sleep apnea (OSA) are at a higher risk for being injured in traffic crashes, according to a study in the journal *Thorax*. OSA patients' excessive daytime sleepiness impairs their ability to drive. Crash data from OSA patients were compared with those without OSA. The OSA patients were more likely to have a crash, and those crashes were more likely to involve injuries. For more information, go to <http://thorax.bmj.com/cgi/content/abstract/63/6/536>

Most Binge Drinkers Use Beer, Drink in Public

Nearly half of all binge drinking takes place in large groups and in public, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Beer is the drink of choice in two-thirds of binge drinking, and alcohol is usually easy to get at these events. Twelve percent of binge drinkers drive during or after an episode. Researchers reported the results at a meeting of the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists. Source: JoinTogether, June 10, 2008

Commuters

Drivers Report Frustration with Congestion, Rising Fuel Costs in IBM Survey

IBM's first Commuter Pain Survey reveals that when gas reaches \$4.50 a gallon, most drivers will seek alternatives to driving. Out of 10 metropolitan areas surveyed, commuter pain is highest in Los Angeles and lowest in Minneapolis. Drivers reported they're fed up with longer commutes, higher gas prices and increased pollution so they're seeking alternatives like working flexible hours and better mass transit. Nearly half of those surveyed say they're more stressed, and 28 percent reported more anger. Nearly a third say they want the option to work from home. IBM is working in "intelligent transportation" by researching, testing and deploying new traffic management capabilities. For more information, go to http://www.ibm.com/press/attachments/IBM_Traffic_Congestion_WhitePaper.pdf
Source: IBM, May 30, 2008

Federal, State Governments Consider Alternatives to Lessen Commute

As gas hovers around \$4 a gallon, some employers are considering alternatives to commuting to the office five days a week. Some are allowing workers to telecommute or switch to four days of 10-hour shifts. Working from home has become more viable because of advances in video conferencing, instant messaging and other communication technologies. More than 26 million Americans now telecommute at least sometimes. The U.S. House of Representatives approved legislation that requires the head of each federal agency to set policies about allowing qualified workers to work outside the office. Georgia, Kentucky, Oklahoma and West Virginia departments are offering alternatives to its workers to help them save money and boost morale.

Philly Chooses Zipcar for Employee Car Sharing Program

Philadelphia recently chose Zipcar to provide car sharing for city workers. Car sharing has helped the city reduce its fleet by 330 vehicles since 2004. The Zipcar service will start July 1 and run through March 31, 2009 with the option to renew for three years. City employees will have access to hybrids, sedans and small SUVs. Zipcar works with more than 35 municipalities in North America and has 200,000 members sharing 5,000 cars in 50 cities.



Advancing Technology

Ford System Helps Prevent Driver Distraction

In its efforts to reduce driver distraction, Ford is continuing research and development of hands-free, voice-activated technology such as its SYNC. Ford and the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers used this research to develop distraction guidelines for new telematics systems. More than 161,000 vehicles with SYNC have been sold in the past year and a half. "We took a conservative approach with SYNC," said Ford's technical specialist in Human Factors & Ergonomics. "We reduced the number of manually operated options and optimized the system for voice control as the primary input for operation. The system is designed to keep your hands on the wheel and eyes on the road."

Source: Ford press release, June 4, 2008

GPS Devices Track More than Just Location

Microsoft researchers are developing ways to use GPS not just to tell commuters where they are, but also to transmit information about what they're doing, including what mode of transportation they're using. That data could help people analyze and change their lifestyles for the better. A team in Beijing developed a way to guess a person's mode of transportation using just their GPS trace. Knowing a person's speed alone isn't enough, but patterns can be analyzed to accurately predict whether a person is walking, driving or riding a bicycle. The travel-mode predicting system is part of Microsoft's experimental Geolife web platform that would let people access popular travel routes and traffic conditions. With the development of the new technology, some have concerns about protecting "locational privacy." For more information, go to http://technology.newscientist.com/article/dn14052-gps-gadgets-can-reveal-more-than-your-location.html?DCMP=ILC-hmts&nsref=news2_head_dn14052

Source: NewScientist.com, June 3, 2008

News from USDOT

Seat Belt Use Increases among Truck Drivers

More professional truck drivers are wearing seat belts now than ever before, according to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration. Of the medium- and heavy-duty commercial motor vehicle drivers who responded to a survey, 65 percent said they buckle up. That figure was 59 percent in 2006. Seat belt usage was higher in states with primary seat belt laws than those with secondary laws.

Senate Panel Says NHTSA's Roof Proposal Is too Weak

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) worked for more than 10 years to propose new auto roof strength standards, but a Senate panel criticized the proposal, saying it offered little promise of protecting motorists in a rollover crash. "If we have a little increase in roof strength that doesn't result in a major decrease in fatalities and injuries, we've done nothing," Sen. Tom Coburn (R-Okla.) said. NHTSA officials indicated they're considering strengthening the proposal before the final proposal is due July 1. The current proposal requires a roof to withstand a force equal to 2.5 times the vehicle weight. NHTSA says a three-times standard would cost \$1.1 billion more than the proposed 2.5 times. Some lawmakers also criticize the proposal because it makes it more difficult for consumers to sue in state courts.

Petition to Shut Off Integrated Systems While Driving Denied

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) denied the Center for Auto Safety's (CAS) petition to make integrated personal communication systems inoperative when a vehicle is in motion. The goal was to "make the driving environment safer by reducing the availability of devices that have been proven to be hazards." NHTSA said CAS did not provide data showing the requested



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rule would improve safety and that drivers would use personal cell phones if integrated systems were shut off. Source: NSC, June 6, 2008

DOT Plans Several Initiatives to Reduce Train, Car Crashes

As part of the U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) railway crossing plan, several initiatives to reduce crashes between vehicles and trains will be completed by the end of 2008. From 2004 to 2007 grade crossing crashes and deaths fell 10.8 and 9.1 percent, respectively, but more needs to be done to make crossings safer. The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) released the first comprehensive report about the challenges of 87,000 private roads that cover railroad tracks and aren't subject to federal safety standards. The FRA plans to undertake a multi-year research and development plan to support low-cost and innovative technologies to improve detection of oncoming trains. The FRA also will issue a revised guidebook to communities closing public grade crossings.

Source: USDOT News Release, June 12, 2008

Tech Brief Explores Seat Belt Use among Older Drivers

A new Tech Brief from the U.S. Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration examines the factors that contribute to seat belt use among adults 65 and older. It also explores what measures can be enacted to increase seat belt use among older adults now and in the future. For more information, go to <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/staticfiles/DOT/NHTSA/Communication%20&%20Consumer%20Information/Traffic%20Tech%20Publications/Associated%20Files/tt349.pdf>

States Don't Need Consent from Truck Drivers to Obtain Drug Test Results

State commercial driver's license authorities can receive commercial motor vehicle driver's drug and alcohol test results without written consent from the driver, according to an Interim Final Rule from USDOT's Office of Drug and Alcohol Policy and Compliance. They can also receive owner-operator positive and refusal results from Consortia/Third Party Administrators. Now when a state requires employers and third-party administrators to release results, there are no barriers to prevent them from doing so. Source: USDOT News Release, June 13, 2008

Arizona Tickets Truck Drivers for Laptop Use

Using a broad interpretation of a federal safety regulation that bans drivers from watching television, the Arizona Department of Transportation started issuing citations to truckers who have open laptops in their cabs. "Advancing technology does allow the devices to be used as a television receiver," an Arizona DOT spokeswoman said. Officers won't issue tickets for drivers with laptops turned off. The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration doesn't view laptops as "television receivers" and will issue a response to Arizona DOT's request for interpretation. Some truckers have pointed out that many law enforcement officers use laptops mounted near the driver's seat. For more information, go to http://www.landlinemag.com/todays_news/Daily/2008/Jun08/060208/060508-02.htm

Source: Land Line Magazine, June 5, 2008

International Traffic Safety News

Avoidable Mistakes Result in Thousands of UK Breakdowns

Mistakes such as putting gas into diesel cars and draining the battery from using too many electronic gadgets cause thousands of company car breakdowns a year. Company car drivers could prevent 40,000 fleet breakdown calls if they conducted maintenance checks and underwent driver training. The top call for service is for tire punctures, but part of the reason it's so common is because policies require a call instead of the driver changing tires themselves. The most common avoidable call is for dead batteries. Diesel contamination is common because there is no standard color for diesel pumps.



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Source: FleetNews, June 10, 2008

Ford Launches Networks in Major Cities to Ease Gridlock

Ford Motor Company and the University of Michigan have launched Ford Urban Mobility Networks, a pilot program that explores ways to deal with congestion in major cities. The first test sites for network hubs that would link cell phones and other technologies to a variety of transportation modes are Cape Town, South Africa and Chennai and Bangalore, India. The goal is to help people find the most efficient ways to get around. The network harnesses existing information technologies regarding scheduling, fare payment, navigation and congestion avoidance. By 2015 two-thirds of the world's population will live near cities, and by 2030 there will be 2 billion cars in the world. For more information, go to

<http://www.freep.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080612/COL06/806120430/1002/BUSINESS> or <http://world-wire.com/news/0806110002.html> Source: Detroit Free Press, June 12, 2008

Manufacturer Combines GPS with Breathalyzer

Italian GPS equipment manufacturer AvMap combined its navigation device with a breathalyzer. "Geosat 6 Drive Safe," developed in partnership with Peugeot. The device has a 4.8-inch touch screen and can make hands-free calls through a Bluetooth connection. The breathalyzer is in the upper right side and is not obvious at first glance. For more information, go to

http://crave.cnet.com/8301-1_105-9959288-1.html Source: CNET News, June 5, 2008

Show Young Drivers Benefits of Company Cars

To encourage young employees to take a company car instead of cash, fleet managers can do the math to demonstrate the mileage allowance. Giving them proof that they'll be better off with a company car will go a long way to sway their decision. Managers can use free online calculators, such as the one at www.cashorcar.com, to show the benefits of company cars. Employers should also be sure to emphasize health and safety issues and the importance of maintenance.

Work-Home

Bicycle Crash Highlights Importance of Sharing the Road

A Chicago bicyclist was killed recently when a car door opened in his path, and other bicyclists say it's an all-too-common problem. Police say the incident is a reminder that people need to pay attention before they open a car door. Often, drivers ignore a new state law that requires they keep at least three feet away from bicyclists. Bicyclists also need to do their part by staying in their lane and refraining from darting between vehicles. For more information, go to

<http://cbs2chicago.com/local/cars.bicyclists.safety.2.747049.html> Source: CBS Chicago, June 12, 2008

States Let Motorcyclists Go on Red

South Carolina now is the seventh state to let motorcyclists proceed with caution when the device that causes lights to change from red to green doesn't activate. North Carolina, Wisconsin, Idaho, Arkansas, Tennessee and Minnesota passed similar laws in the past six years. The Federal Highway Administration is concerned about safety and thinks states should find a technical solution to the problem, but biker groups think the laws are common sense. California's solution is to put in sensors that detect vehicles and motorcycles when new traffic signals are installed. One inventor developed a magnetic device that can be strapped to a motorcycle and causes the sensor to think a car is there. For more information, go to http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2008-06-10-red-light-laws_N.htm

Source: USA Today, June 10, 2008



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West Virginia Ties Teen Driver's Licenses to Performance in School

A new West Virginia policy will require teen drivers to demonstrate solid performance in school and good behavior before they can get a driver's license. The Board of Education sent a policy for 30-day comment that will align with the Legislature's bill. Students have to show positive steps for graduation, maintain a "C" average and behave to get their licenses. For more information, go to <http://wvgazette.com/News/200806050857> Source: Charleston Gazette, June 6, 2008

Parents Can Learn to Keep Teen Drivers Safe at Web Site

Parents play an important role when teens are learning to drive. Combined with graduated driver licensing, parents can help keep teens safe by enforcing rules about when, where and with whom their teens drive. Traffic crashes are the No. 1 cause of death for U.S. teens, in part because of their inexperience. Driving with other teens while unsupervised increases the risk. Parents can learn more about GDL laws and tips about teaching teens safe driving skills by going to http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/duip/teen_drivers.htm, a feature from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Source: NOYS Notable News, June 3, 2008

North Americans Learn to Restrain Pets Properly at Volvo Dealerships

Volvo and Bark Buckle UP are partnering on a campaign to educate pet owners about how to travel with their animals safely. Volvo dealerships across the United States and Canada will host Pet Safety Days from June through September to teach owners how to secure their pets safely. If unrestrained, a 60-pound dog in a vehicle traveling 35 mph can cause an impact of 2,700 pounds. Pets can also impede the progress of rescue workers who need to care for crash victims as soon as possible. Fewer than 2 percent of Americans currently restrain their pets in vehicles. Source: Automotive Fleet, June 4, 2008

Children Safest in Middle of Back Seat

A study from the University of Pennsylvania and Children's Hospital of Philadelphia confirms that children are best protected in child safety seats in the middle of the vehicle's back seat. Researchers studied crashes between 1998 and 2006 and found children younger than 3 were 43 percent less likely to suffer injuries in the middle of the back seat, especially in side-impact crashes. Only 28 percent of parents place child safety seats there, even though it's been recommended for many years. The findings are in the May issue of Pediatrics.

Reasons to Lower Drinking Age Refuted

Choose Responsibility, an organization created by John McCardell Jr. to lower the legal drinking age from 21 to 18, is renewing efforts to license 18- to 20-year-olds to drink after completing 42 hours of instruction in the history, chemistry, psychology and sociology of alcohol. McCardell argues that 18-year-olds are considered adults in many other aspects and that the higher drinking age forces alcohol consumption underground. But binge drinking data does not show the problem has gotten worse since the drinking age was raised and that traffic crashes, injuries and fatalities would rise if the law were changed. Choose Responsibility supporters claim that other countries with lower drinking ages saw drunk-driving fatalities drop, but that's not true. For more information, go to <http://www.time.com/time/nation/article/0,8599,1812397,00.html> Source: Time, June 6, 2008

Status Report Explores Cell Phone Use by Teen Drivers

The latest issue of the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety's (IIHS) Status Report magazine tackles teens' cell phone use while driving. For more information, go to <http://www.iihs.org/research/topics/pdf/r1106.pdf>



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Teen Cell Phone Ban Has Little Effect in North Carolina

North Carolina teenagers have not changed their behavior since the state passed a law that bans cell phone use by drivers under 18, according to a new study. Five months after the law took effect, researchers saw teen drivers using cell phones about as much as they did before the law. Researchers from the UNC Center and Insurance Institute for Highway Safety watched teens drive away from their high schools to see how many were talking on their phones. The researchers also conducted pre and post telephone surveys and found that teens were more likely to know about the law than their parents, but parents were more likely to support the law. The law hasn't been widely publicized or enforced because it's difficult for police officers to determine whether a driver is under 18. For more information, go to <http://www.newsobserver.com/news/story/1101320.html> or <http://www.iihs.org/news/rss/pr060908.html> Source: The News & Observer

New Web Site Provides Parents Information about Dangers of Providing Alcohol to Teens

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) urges adults to make this summer a safe one by not serving alcohol to teens. The FTC launched a Web site, www.dontserveteens.gov/safesummer.html, with information about underage drinking and campaign materials such as Web banners and buttons, downloadable posters, public service announcements and sample letters to the editor. Alcohol remains the most widely abused substance among teens, according to the U.S. Surgeon General, and most teens that drink get alcohol from family or friends. About 5,000 people under 21 die from injuries related to drinking every year. Letting teens drink in a parent's house undermines other parents' authority and is against the law in many states. Source: Federal Trade Commission, June 11, 2008