

# **S.M.A.R.T.**

Speed Management  
&  
Accident Reduction  
Training



# Traffic Enforcement Philosophy

To enforce the traffic laws and promote safety for all motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians in the Partnership Cities.

## **S.M.A.R.T. Program**

S.M.A.R.T. was designed to:

Educate the drivers who have been cited for minor traffic infractions.

Review traffic laws and safe driving habits.

Teach by a PowerPoint presentation, videos and a non-graded test.

Allow the participant the venue to ask traffic related questions.

# ***Top 10 Traffic Risks***

Published by Safe Communities of Wright Co. Hwy 55 Survival Guide

1. ***Inattentiveness*** – The most common contributing factor in multiple vehicle crashes. (i.e. phone calls, changing CD's, putting on make-up, shaving).
2. ***Excessive speed*** – Illegal/unsafe speed is the most common factor in single vehicle crashes for drivers between 15 and 64 years of age.
3. ***Failure to wear safety belt*** – Safety belts reduce your chances of death or serious injury by almost 50%.
4. ***Alcohol and other drug use*** – From 2005-2007, Wright County was the 6th most deadly county for DWI-related deaths.
5. ***Multiple passengers*** – With each additional passenger, the likelihood of a crash increases. For teen drivers, it's even higher.
6. ***Fatigue and emotional state*** – A person who has been awake for 24 hours causes impairment nearly equal to a blood alcohol concentration of .10, which is above the legal limit to drive.
7. ***Not checking traffic before pulling out*** – Most crashes occur at intersections with traffic signals or two-way stop signs.
8. ***Bad weather*** – Ice and snow-packed roads increase stopping distance; rain, fog, snow and blowing snow decreases visibility.
9. ***Night driving*** – Potential hazards are less visible at night. If you drive too fast, you can over-drive your headlights, and not have enough time to stop before hitting a hazard in the road.
10. ***Inadequate defensive driving techniques*** – You have to anticipate what the other driver is going to do and be ready to take evasive actions to protect yourself and others.

# ***Provisional License***

## **Requirements:**

- Minimum of 16 years of age.
- Have completed drivers education.
- Held an instructional permit for a minimum of 6 months without a conviction for a moving violation relating to alcohol and/or a controlled substance .

## **Restrictions:**

No use of cell phones, whether hands-free or with a hand-set while driving except to call 911.

### **First 6 months**

- No driving from Midnight – 5 a.m. Exceptions: school events, employment, driving with someone 25 years old or older.
- Only ONE passenger under 20 years old in the car with the exception of immediate family.

### **Second 6 months**

- No more than 3 passengers in the car under the age of 20, with the exception of immediate family.

**Parents can revoke their child's Drivers License by sending it back to the State.**



# ***Teen Driver Facts***

**Peak hours for teen crashes: 9 p.m. to Midnight.**

Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death among U.S. teens, accounting for **36%** of all deaths in this age group.

**61%** of teen passenger deaths in 2007 occurred in vehicles driven by another teenager. Among deaths of passengers of all ages, 20% occurred while a teenager was driving.

☹ **One passenger for a teen driver, increases the chance of a crash by 39%.**

☹ **Three passengers increases the chance of a crash by 200%.**

Teens have the lowest rate of seat belt use.

“Not A Drop” Law – an alcohol consumption related crash violation will cause a loss of license until age 18.

It is illegal for any person under the age of 21 to consume alcohol and/or use illegal drugs at any time.

Most teens ignore cell phone driving restrictions.

Distractions such as changing the radio/CD's, phone calls, friends, as well as, inexperience, are the causes for the majority of teen crashes.

# SEAT BELTS/CAR SEATS

## Infants: Rear Facing Seat

- Infant only or a rear-facing convertible seat must be used.
- Newborn to at least 1 year old and 20 pounds.
- A child up to 35 pounds may stay rear-facing longer when using a convertible seat.

Always place rear-facing seats in the reclined position at a 30 to 45 degree angle. Keep the harness snug, and at or below the shoulders.

**NEVER** place a rear-facing child seat in front of an airbag!

*On all seats, follow all manufacturer's instructions.*

## Forward-Facing Seat

- Convertible or Combination Seats are for Ages 1 to 4.
- Place forward-facing seats in the upright position.
- Move the harness straps to the proper reinforced slots.



- Keep the harness snug .
- Keep the harness at or above the shoulders.
- Check and follow all of the manufacturer's instructions for exact positioning.

## Booster Seats

4' 9"



Effective July 1, 2009, a child who is both under age 8 and shorter than 4 feet 9 inches is required to be fastened in a child safety seat that meets federal safety standards.

Under this new Minnesota law, a child cannot use a seat belt alone until they are age 8 or 4 feet 9 inches tall. It is recommended to keep a child in a booster seat based on their height, rather than their age. The State of Minnesota suggests that compliance with car seat safety laws is a minimum safety standard, and suggests that children remain in a booster seat until 80 pounds and remain in the back seat until age 13.

## Adult Seat Belt

Over 8 years old, or 4 feet 9 inches tall.



Minnesota's seat belt law is a primary offense, meaning drivers and passengers in all seating positions must be buckled up or in the correct child safety seat. Law enforcement can stop motorists for seat belt violations.



# ***Click It or Ticket***

# ***Impaired Driving Law***

- Drive, operate, or be in physical control of a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol .
- Having a blood alcohol content (BAC) of .08 or more.
- Driving a commercial vehicle with a BAC .04 or more.
- Under the influence of a controlled substance.
- Knowingly under the influence of a hazardous substance.
- Any combination of the above.

## **Aggravating Factors**

(Increased penalties for the following)

- ◆ Having a blood alcohol content of .20 or more on current test.
- ◆ Child Endangerment: child less than 16 years of age and greater than 36 months difference from the offender.
- ◆ Each prior DWI conviction or implied consent revocation within 10 years.

## **Alcohol Related Violations**

Unlawful for a person under the age of 21 to drive with any amount of alcohol in their system.

A passenger can be charged with being 'under the influence' if under the age of 21.

Both the driver and passenger can be charged with possession of alcohol if under the age of 21.

It is a crime to have an open container of alcohol in the passenger compartment of a motor vehicle. Both the driver and passenger can be charged.

## Implied Consent

Under Minnesota law, it is a crime to refuse to take a test to determine the presence of alcohol or a controlled substance.

## Alcohol is Alcohol

Consuming (4) of any type of alcohol will produce the same blood alcohol content results.

### Example of a Female Drinker:

Duration: 2 hour time period

Weight: 140 pounds

Results: Estimated BAC of .094

(4) 12oz beers **or** (4) 5oz glasses of wine **or** (4) 1.5oz measured spirits.



### Example of a Male Drinker:

Consuming alcohol in an amount of time that most men would feel that they were safe to drive, still could lead to a DWI.

Duration: 4 hour time period

Weight: 200 pounds

Results: (10) 12oz beers, equals an estimated BAC of .12

(6) 5oz glass of wine, equals an estimated BAC of .045

(8) 1.5oz measured spirits, equals an estimated BAC of .08

**Remember:** *It is illegal to drive with a BAC of .08 or more. These examples may not represent your true blood alcohol concentration.*

On average, someone is killed by a drunk driver every 45 minutes.

Three in every 10 Americans will be involved in an alcohol-related crash at some time in their lives.

***Be Safe - Drink Responsibly***

# Start Seeing

## M O T O R C Y C L E S

### Motorcycle Endorsement: Under 18 years of age.

The commissioner of public safety will issue a motorcycle permit if:

- You are over 16 years of age,
- Have a valid driver's license,
- Are enrolled in an approved two-wheeled vehicle driver's safety course,
- Have passed a written examination for the permit and paid the prescribed fee,
- A two-wheeled vehicle permit is valid for one year but may be renewed.

### Motorcycle Endorsement: Over 18 years of age.

The same rules apply to persons over 18, but you are not required to complete an approved two-wheeled vehicle driver's safety course, however it is recommended that you do take a safety course. If you successfully complete the course, the skills test for the endorsement will be waved.

### Motorcycle Permit Rules.

- Must have a permit in your possession.
- Must have your drivers license.
- Proof of insurance.
- Must wear a helmet.
- Cannot carry passengers.
- Cannot ride at night.
- No operations on highways marked as an Interstates.

# *Rules to ride by:*

1. Drivers must wear protective eyewear.
2. Must have an operative headlamp on at all times.
3. If under 18 years of age, a driver or passenger must wear a helmet.
4. Motorcyclist must ride on a regular, permanent seat, facing forward.
5. Passengers can ride on a permanent seat if it is designed for two people, or on an additional, attached seat or side car.
6. Riders must have foot pegs to place their feet on.
7. The rider must be able to reach the foot pegs.
8. Drivers may not carry packages or other articles that interfere with keeping both hands on the handle bars.
9. Motorcycles cannot have handle bars that are higher than shoulder height (known as "ape hanger").
10. Motorcycles may not drive between lanes of moving or stationary traffic.
11. No more than two motorcycles can be driven next to each other within the same lane.

Motorcyclist fatalities reached 5,290 in 2008, accounting for 14% of total crash fatalities in the United States.



This is eleventh consecutive year that there has been an increase in motorcycle crash deaths.

Per mile traveled in 2006 a motorcyclist is approximately 37 times more likely to die in a crash than someone riding in a passenger car.

In 2007, helmets saved the lives of 1785 motorcyclist. Another 800 lives would have been saved if all motorcyclist had worn helmets.

# *Before Your Next Scoot*

## **Motorized Foot Scooter**

- \* A motorized foot scooter is capable of no more than 15 mph and has wheels of 10 inches of diameter or less.
- \* A rider must be 12 years of age or older to operate a MFS.
- \* No license or permit is required.
- \* Riders may not carry passengers.
- \* Riders younger than 18 must wear a bicycle or motorcycle helmet.
- \* MFS do not require registration or insurance.
- \* May be operated on bicycle paths, lanes, trails, and bike-ways unless prohibited under local jurisdiction.
- \* MFS may not be driven on sidewalks except to cross to an adjacent roadway.
- \* Riders must ride as close as possible to the right hand curb or edge of the roadway except to pass another vehicle or avoid impediments. The rider making a left turn must dismount at the right hand curb and cross the road on foot.

## *Moped Laws*

- \* All Mopeds operated on the streets or highways must have liability insurance.
- \* Mopeds are not allowed on lanes and trails that have been set aside for bicycles.
- \* Mopeds may not be operated on sidewalks.
- \* It is illegal to ride between stopped or moving lanes of cars on the street or at intersections.
- \* You must be 15 years of age or older with a valid driver's license or a moped/motorized bicycle permit.



# Aggressive

**They drive faster than surrounding vehicles, which causes them to:**

- Follow too close
- Change lanes frequently and abruptly, often without signaling
- Passing on the shoulder or unpaved portion of the roadway
- Glare at or threaten motorists who are in front of them or will not get out of their way.

The aggressive driver is driven by an angry mindset that results in their poor driving behavior.

# Drivers

**What should you do if you encounter an aggressive driver.**

- If at all possible, get out of their way.
- Take a deep breath and stay calm.
- Put your pride in a back seat, do not challenge the aggressive driver.
- Wear your seat belt. It will hold you in place if you need to make an abrupt driving maneuver or if you get into a crash.
- Avoid eye contact. The aggressive driver may feel that you are challenging them.
- Ignore gestures and refuse to return them.
- Report aggressive drivers to the proper authority.
- Aggressive driving is against the law. If you have a cellular phone call 911
- If an aggressive driver is involved in a traffic accident further down the road, stay back and wait till police arrive and report what you witnessed.

# *What You Should Know*

## **Passing on the Right**

Passing on the right is permitted if you are traveling down a highway with at least two lanes of traffic traveling in the same direction.

In this situation if you find a driver in the “left” lane traveling at under the posted speed limit, you may pass them using the right-hand lane. However, you may also pass on the right if there is a bypass lane.

Additionally, if someone is turning left and there is a travel lane at the intersection, then you may also pass on the right. The law states that you may not leave the “main travel portion of the roadway” to execute a pass on the right. You may not pass on the right if there are regulatory signs prohibiting this, such as “Right Turn Lane or parking lane.”



### **Point to Remember:**

Do I have to cross a solid white line, or drive on the shoulder to make the pass?

If yes, this is an illegal pass.

# *Laws to Drive By*

- ◆ When making a right turn on red, the driver must yield to left turning traffic from the opposite direction.
- ◆ When making a turn (right or left) the driver must turn into the closest lane in the direction of desired travel.
- ◆ Do not cross railroad tracks if the red crossing lights are flashing.
- ◆ A driver must yield to drivers who are already in a traffic roundabout.
- ◆ When at a stop sign or semaphore displaying a red light, you must come to a complete stop.
- ◆ The driver of a motor vehicle cannot wear headphones while driving.
- ◆ When you change your address and/or name, you have 30 days to notify the Department of Motor Vehicles.
- ◆ A driver can be stopped and cited for anything suspended from the windshield or mirror.

## *Driving Myths*

1. If you get two tickets for the same offense you only have to pay for one.
2. You cannot get a DWI while in a private parking lot, on a lake or stream, whether frozen or not.
3. While driving the speed limit, an officer cannot give you a ticket.
4. If under .08 BAC, you are safe to drive.
5. You can throw objects out of the window if they are biodegradable.
6. If you suck on a penny, the copper will throw off a breathalyzer.
7. A license plate in the front window is good enough for display purposes.
8. A police officer cannot stop a car if the car is out of the city where the police officer is employed.

# Please Drive Safely

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