



NTSB

SAFETY ALERT

National Transportation Safety Board

★ Graduated Driver Licensing

***Give young drivers the help they need
to become better drivers and to save lives***

Grim facts

- Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for teenagers.
- From 1997 through 2006, more than 63,000 young people aged 15-20 died in traffic crashes – 122 each week.
- In 2006, 7,463 young drivers ages 15-20 were involved in fatal crashes, and 3,490 young drivers were killed.
- Over the last 10 years, teen drivers represent less than 7 percent of the driving population, but account for more than 13 percent of drivers involved in all deadly crashes. More than 21 percent of all highway fatalities occur in crashes that involve teen drivers.
- The risk of a crash increases greatly with each additional teen passenger riding with a young teen driver.
- Sixteen-year-old drivers are more than twice as likely to be involved in fatal crashes as older drivers.
- Two-thirds of the passengers who were killed in teen driver crashes were teenagers themselves.

Effective actions in graduated driver licensing

- Studies from nearly a dozen States show that deaths and serious injuries from traffic crashes involving young drivers declined by as much as 58 percent following enactment of graduated licensing provisions, depending on the provisions of the law.
- These requirements in a three-stage licensing program are recommended by the NTSB:

Learner's permit

- 6-month minimum holding period (without an at-fault driver or traffic violation).
- Supervised driver requirement with supervising driver age 21 or older.
- Seat belts used by all passengers in all seating positions.
- Driving with a measurable blood alcohol level prohibited.
- Cell phone use by drivers prohibited while driving.

Intermediate (provisional) license

- 6-month minimum holding period (without an at-fault crash or traffic violation).
- Nighttime driving restriction.
- Teen passenger restriction (zero or 1).
- Seat belts used by all passengers in all seating positions.
- Driving with a measurable blood alcohol level prohibited.
- Cell phone use by drivers prohibited while driving.

Full licensure

- Seat belts used by all passengers in all seating positions.
- Driving with any measurable blood alcohol level by all drivers under age 21 prohibited.

What can you do to save the lives of young, novice drivers?

- Make sure your teen driver follows the stages and restrictions recommended by the NTSB.
- Talk to or write to your State and local lawmakers and urge them to support the NTSB's recommendations concerning graduated driver licensing.
- Urge State and local law enforcement to strictly enforce graduated driver licensing laws.

Need more information?

- NTSB Most Wanted List: http://www.nts.gov/Recs/mostwanted/youth_safety.htm
- NTSB website: www.nts.gov