

U T A H

NETS

Network Of Employers
For Traffic Safety

WE ARE THE STATE THAT BOOSTS TILL EIGHT!



For six long years, Utah has tried to become a booster seat state. On March 5, 2008, HB 140, *Child Restraint Devices* finally passed through the legislature. Representative Tim Cosgrove and Co-Sponsor Senator Greg Bell did a great job as well as all those other individuals involved with getting this bill passed. We especially thank those Representatives and Senators who spoke in favor of the bill.

For those wondering, what does this mean for my children? Good question, here is what the bill includes. HB 140 requires the operator of the vehicle to provide protection of a person younger than eight years of age by using an appropriate child restraint device. In layman's terms, it means all children five up to eight years old must be in a Booster seat or car seat (whichever appropriate for the child's weight and height). If your child is under eight years of age and 57 inches tall or taller, they may sit in a seat belt.

Now you are asking yourself why? Booster seats have proven to be 60% safer than seat belts alone. Studies also have proven that Booster seats save children's lives and minimize their injuries in car crashes far more effectively than adult seat belts. A Booster seat will elevate the child up so that the shoulder belt fits properly over the middle of the shoulder and not the neck and hit the center of the chest. The lap belt will also fit across the hips or upper thighs rather than the stomach. Some other

benefits are that your child will now be able to see out the window and feel comfortable in their own "seat."

When will this bill go into effect? On May 4, 2008 the bill will go into effect. Law enforcement will give offenders a grace period. Although, how long as not yet been determined. The fine for those ticketed will be \$45. Educating the public on this bill is critical. Many traffic safety professionals have come together to strategize and plan how they will educate the public and get more involved in media relations in order to reach all residents and law enforcement in the state of Utah.

How much are Booster seats and where can I get one if I cannot afford one? There are many different types of Booster seats available. Try your local Wal-Mart, Target, or even Babies R' Us. All seats on the shelves have been tested and approved. Remember, the best seat is the one that you will use properly and fits correctly in your car. Most Booster seats range from \$15-30. If this is something you cannot afford please call, Hollie Davis at the Utah Safety Council, (801) 478-7878 x 303. Also if you have any questions on this law or you would like a free car seat check please call the number above. If you are outside of the Salt Lake area, still give us a call and we can direct you to the nearest Car Seat Technician in your area.

Will this affect our car pools? It may or may not. Just remember your child's life and safety is much more important. Booster seats are very easy to use and install! Just a reminder, Booster seats may ONLY be used with a lap and shoulder belt. Also get in the habit of re-buckling the seat belt over the Booster seat even when the child is not in their seat. It may become a projectile to others in the car in the event of a crash.



WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU'RE INVOLVED IN A CAR CRASH



One in every eight drivers will be involved in a motor vehicle crash this year, according to the National Safety Council. That may mean you! Are you prepared? Would you know what to do and

what questions to ask? Since most people are upset after a crash, the Utah Safety Council offers this list of 11 easy steps to remember.

1. Stop your vehicle if it is clear, safe, and legal.
2. Move the vehicle out of the traveled roadway, if it is clear, safe, and legal. (In some states it is against the law to move the vehicle from the place where the crash occurred. Know the ordinance in your area).
3. Turn off the ignition of the cars involved.
4. Make a first aid check of all persons involved in the crash.
5. Call the police and, if necessary, emergency medical services.
6. Mark the scene of the crash with retroreflective

- triangles.
7. Gather the names of all persons in the motor vehicles and people who witnessed the crash.
8. Make a quick diagram of where the vehicle occupants were seated and indicate the vehicles' direction of travel and lane. Also note the date, time and weather conditions.
9. Ask to see the other driver's license and write down the number.
10. Exchange insurance company information. Do not discuss "fault" or make statements about the crash to anyone but the police.
11. Get a copy of the police report of the crash from the local precinct.

It's a good idea to have a copy of these steps available in your company's vehicles in the event of a crash.

Source: NSC 2005

DRUGS AND ALCOHOL IN THE WORKPLACE



Companies should have an impaired driving policy in place. Those with an existing policy are encouraged to remind drivers about the risks of drinking and driving and the increasing number of people who are convicted of driving the morning after a night of drinking.

Almost a fifth of convictions are on the way to or at work, often in a company vehicle.

Drugs and alcohol abuse takes a toll on employees, but it also affects the corporations they work for. Companies can act by assessing or developing a new policy, creating an awareness and training program, and developing testing procedures. Once that is done you will then need to implement the policy, train managers, and monitor the policy on an ongoing basis.

Myths many employers believe are:

- That their employees would never drink and drive in a company vehicle
- A driver has to be over the limit to be convicted
- It's only a problem around the holidays
- There's a policy banning drinking and driving, so the company is covered

Source: Company Car Driver and FleetNewsNet

Free Materials Available

Drive Friendly Stickers
 Road Rage Brochures
 Buckle Up For Love Posters and Brochures

To request free materials, contact Hollie Davis at (800) 933-5943 ext. 303 or through e-mail at hdavis@utahsafetycouncil.org



AVOID POTHOLES AND RELATED DANGERS



Springtime may bring milder weather and flower blossoms, but drivers should not spend too much time gazing out the window because when snow and ice melt away, a new road hazard is revealed.

Now is the time for the ugly and hazardous pothole. A combination of water, salt, heavy traffic and cold climate system with a freeze-and-thaw cycle can cause an asphalt surface to crack and deteriorate, turning the roadway into an obstacle course.

Potholes can damage a vehicle's wheel rims, alignment and suspension system. According to the National Safety Council, misalignment of a vehicle can shorten a car's life and affect steering, which in turn can make it unsafe to operate. Misalignment can

also create a tendency for the car to pull to one side, which contributes to faster tire wear.

The Utah Safety Council offers the following tips to safely avoid potholes:

- Try as hard as you can to avoid hitting a pothole without swerving into another lane or car.
- Drive defensively, because other drivers also may be avoiding potholes and could swerve into your lane.
- Slow down before you hit a pothole. The faster you hit a pothole, the greater the chance of damaging your vehicle.
- Make sure your tires are inflated to the proper level so they are less prone to damage if you hit a pothole.
- If you travel the same route, drive slowly and remember where potholes are located so you can be prepared to react and avoid damaging your car.

Source: Traffic Safety March 2008

WATCH OUT FOR BIKE RIDERS



A truck approaches an intersection, preparing to turn right. The driver stops, takes a quick glance in the mirrors, looks out all windows, and proceeds into the turn. The next thing he knows, a police officer is pulling him over and asking him if he saw the bicyclist that was run over by the trailer's tires.

This scenario is becoming more common these days, as more and more people are looking to their bikes to get to and from work or the store. High gasoline prices are making people consider their bikes as a cost effective way to get around town or short trips. Professional drivers must take notice of this trend, and be aware that more bikes than ever are out on the road sharing the space with other vehicles, including trucks.

Please remember in some states there is no law preventing bike riders from riding on the freeways (on the shoulder). As you travel, be prepared to see any number of bike riders traveling along, especially in the spring and summer.

A few safety tips to remember when encountering a bike on the roadway:

1. As you approach and pass these folks, keep a close eye on them in the mirrors. Try to give them as much room as safely possible and never

assume that you "know" what they are going to do.

2. In any turning situation, if possible, try to allow the bike rider to proceed through an intersection before attempting the maneuver that is needed. There have been several accidents where the bike rider ended up underneath the truck's tires, as the truck tried to make a turn while still next to a bike rider.
3. Always take a few extra moments to identify whether there are any bike riders near or around your vehicle when stopped, before you proceed again.
4. Keep your speed at a slow, reasonable pace as you approach and pass bike riders. They will appreciate your courtesy.

Source: Utah Trucking Association





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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NETS NEWS

If you would like to submit items for use in the newsletter, send them to:

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To find out how NETS can help your business, call (801) 478-7878 ext 303 or (800) 933-5943 ext 303. Membership is free so sign up today!

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