

U T A H

# NETS

Network Of Employers  
For Traffic Safety

## APRIL SHOWERS BRING MAY FLOWERS...AND HYDORPLANING

Heavy rain can cause decreased visibility for drivers, in addition to a number of hazardous road conditions for your car. The National Safety Council offers some advice for dealing with these conditions:

*Turn your vehicles headlights on.* This will help you to see better and will help others to see



you.  
*Keep your defroster on* so the inside of your windshield stays dry.  
If it is raining so hard that you cannot see the car in front of you, *pull over and wait* out the storm.

Hydroplaning happens when the tires of your car lose contact with the road from rising up on water between the tires and the road. When this happens you lose traction, preventing the vehicle from responding to control inputs such as steering, braking or accelerating. It becomes, in effect, an unpowered and unsteered sled. Hydroplaning is more likely to occur if there is half an inch of water or more on the surface of the road, but it is possible to happen with less water. Vehicle weight can also play a role in hydroplaning. If your vehicle is light or has too much weight concentrated in the rear, your chances of hydroplaning increase. The easiest way to avoid hydroplaning is simply to slow down.

*Traffic Safety Vol. 8 No. 5*

## 2008 FATALITIES DOWN, HELP MAKE 2009 EVEN BETTER

Fatalities from traffic accidents on Utah roads were down in 2008. Unfortunately 110 of the 270 deaths that did occur were due to people not wearing a seat belt. Utah highway safety officials said they plan to renew their efforts to get people to buckle up.

Everyone has an excuse when they are not wearing a seat belt. "I didn't have to go far" or "It wrinkles my clothes." "Those excuses will not do you much good in the case of a crash", Utah Public Safety Commissioner. Lance Davenport says "When it comes to not wearing a seat belt, there is no excuse."

Some interesting numbers from 2008 show that 181 of the fatalities were men, compared to 89 women who died. Eighty four percent of fatal

accidents were not related to road or weather conditions and more than half were daytime accidents.

As an employer, take these numbers into consideration and look at the seat belt policy within your own business. Do you have a seat belt policy? Does each employee understand it? You may want to think of some rewards for employees who consistently buckle up and remind everyone of your policy along with the benefits of buckling up.

You can also participate in the Occupational Seatbelt Awards this Fall. Contact Jessica Hadfield at the Utah Safety Council to find out how. (801) 478-7878 ext. 303.



## GET A JUMP START ON JUMPER CABLE SAFETY

Is a dead battery going to keep you or your employees from working? Do you want your company vehicles to be able to help other motorists in need? When a motor vehicle battery fails, a jump start is often the best short term way to get it moving again. Jumping a battery can be dangerous though.

Vehicle batteries contain acid and produce hydrogen and oxygen gasses. A spark or lighted cigarette can ignite the gasses and turn the battery into a bomb of flying fragments and acid.

Invest in a good pair of jumper cables with multiple stranded copper wires. Make sure the alligator clips are copper as well and that the junction of the wire and clips is secure. Keep the following instructions near the jumper cables for all employees to refer to.

### Before jump starting a vehicle:

- 1) Make sure that the battery being used is the same voltage as the one being jump started.
- 2) Position the vehicles so that they are not touching each other.
- 3) Read the owner's manual of both vehicles for any special instructions.
- 4) Turn off the ignitions of both vehicles and set

parking brakes. Place automatic transmissions in park and standard transmissions in neutral.

- 5) Make certain identification of which battery posts are positive and which are negative. Use a flashlight to help if it is dark, never guess.

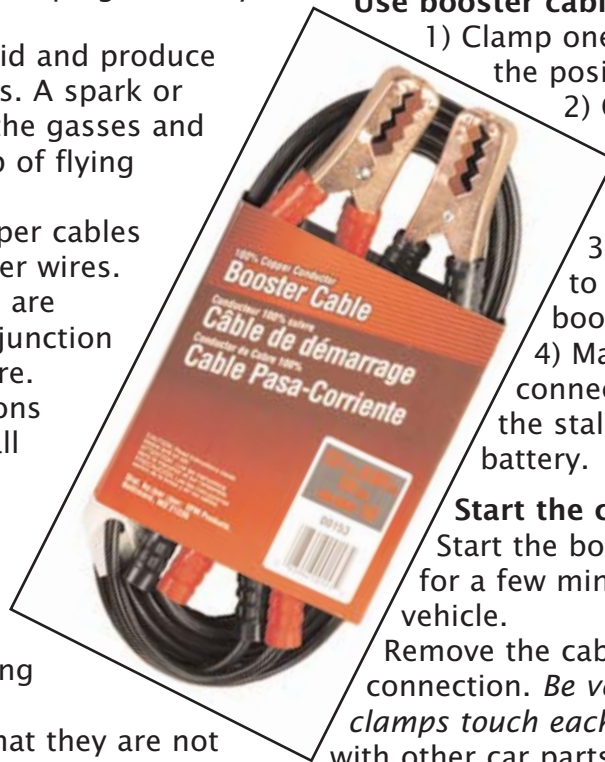
### Use booster cables in this order:

- 1) Clamp one end of the positive cable to the positive post of the dead battery.
- 2) Connect the other end of that same positive cable to the positive post of the booster battery.
- 3) Connect the negative cable to the negative post of the booster battery.
- 4) Make the final negative cable connection on the engine block of the stalled vehicle away from the battery.

### Start the car:

Start the booster vehicle and let it run for a few minutes, then start the disabled vehicle.

Remove the cables in the reverse order of connection. *Be very careful not to let the clamps touch each other or come into contact with other car parts.*



Traffic Safety Vol 4 No. 5

## TRAFFIC SAFETY MEDIA LIBRARY

Viewing a DVD is a convenient, entertaining and fun way to train employees on Traffic Safety. Often quality traffic safety training productions can be costly – especially for a one time viewing. Fortunately the Utah Safety Council has an extensive media library that includes nearly 150 traffic safety productions with 16 new titles that have recently been added. Members of the Utah Safety Council can check out videos and DVD's



at no cost. Find out if your business is a member of the Utah

Safety Council and begin training today. For an up-to-date list of safety media library titles; visit [www.utahsafetycouncil.org](http://www.utahsafetycouncil.org).

### Free Materials Available

Drive Friendly Magnets  
NETS Incentives  
Traffic Safety Posters and Brochures

To request free materials, contact Jessica Hadfield at (800) 933-5943 ext. 303 or e-mail [jhadfield@utahsafetycouncil.org](mailto:jhadfield@utahsafetycouncil.org)

## ROUNABOUT RULES



Roundabouts are growing in popularity, even in Utah. It's a good thing because in the U.S. they are shown to reduce fatal injury accidents as much as

76%. Here's some basic rules for anyone unfamiliar with roundabouts to review:

- As you approach a roundabout slow down, watch for pedestrians and bicyclists, and be prepared to stop if necessary.
- When you enter, yield to circulating traffic on the left, but do not stop if the way is clear.
- You must drive to the right of the center island.
- Upon passing the street prior to your exit, turn on your right turn signal.
- Left turns are completed by traveling around the central island.

## KEEP ALL AGES SAFE ON THE ROAD

For nearly fourteen years, the Utah Safety Council has conducted a program called Buckle Up For Love. It is a community program that aims to increase the awareness and use of child safety seats and safety belts for children. It is purely educational and no law enforcement agencies are involved. The goal of the program is to remind the community that motor vehicle accidents are the biggest killer of children in Utah and that buckling up is the most effective and easiest way to prevent injury and death for all individuals. When someone sees an unrestrained child in a moving motor vehicle, they can anonymously report the incident by filling out an online form, mailing in a report card or calling our hotline:

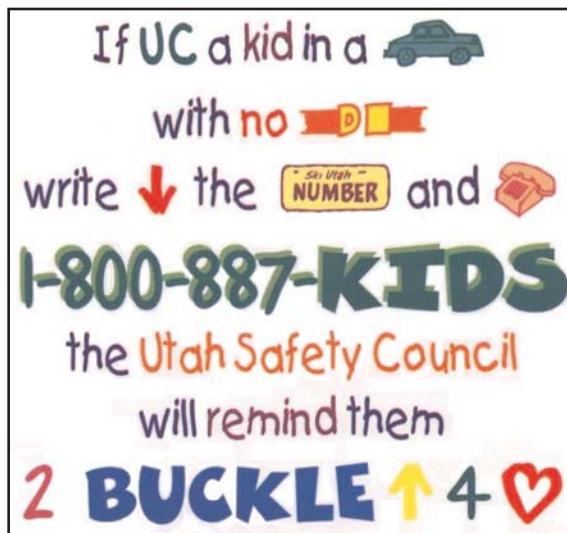
**1-800-887-KIDS**

Then report the license plate number, the time and location of the incident and a description of what was seen. The program coordinator takes the license plate number and is able to retrieve the name and address of the reported vehicle's registered owner.

Owners of reported vehicles are sent a letter informing them that their car was seen being driven with an unrestrained child. They are given a packet of carseat information that will

enable parents and caregivers to better protect their passengers, especially the little ones. Utilizing the Buckle Up For Love program is a wonderful way to improve the safety and health of children in Utah. Last year in Utah, 963 vehicles were reported on the Buckle Up For Love hotline and 818 letters were sent to owners of reported vehicles. Since its beginning in 1995, the Buckle Up For Love has received

over 29,000 reports of unbuckled children. The Utah Safety Council has numerous materials available for distribution to your employees that will promote the use of the Buckle Up For Love hotline and other reporting options. These materials are free of charge and include such items as brochures, wallet cards, posters, pens, magnets and observation cards used to report vehicles. Our wallet cards and brochures are also



available in Spanish.

Buckle Up For Love materials can be ordered on our website [www.utahsafetycouncil.org](http://www.utahsafetycouncil.org) under the Safety Resources link. If you have any questions please call the Information Specialist at (801) 478-7878 ext.

303 or e-mail [jhadfield@utahsafetycouncil.org](mailto:jhadfield@utahsafetycouncil.org).





## NETS NEWS

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

### Utah NETS

1574 West 1700 South, Suite 2A  
Salt Lake City, UT 84104

**Phone:** (801) 478-7878  
**Toll-Free:** (800) 933-5943  
**Fax:** (801) 478-0884  
**E-Mail:** [jhadfield@utahsafetycouncil.org](mailto:jhadfield@utahsafetycouncil.org)  
**Web Site:** [www.utahsafetycouncil.org](http://www.utahsafetycouncil.org)

## In This Issue:

- ◆ Hydroplaning Help
- ◆ 2008 Statistics and More
- ◆ Jumper Cable Safety
- ◆ Traffic Safety Media Library
- ◆ Roundabout Rules
- ◆ Keep Motorists of all Ages Safe

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!



1574 West 1700 South, Suite 2A  
Salt Lake City, UT 84104

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
Paid  
S.L.C., UT  
Permit No. 4978