

U T A H

NETS

Network Of Employers
For Traffic Safety

GET SET FOR EXTENDED SUMMER DRIVING



With more daylight and better weather your employees will likely see an increase in miles driven this summer, both on and off the job.

With the following suggestions anyone can map out a strategy to avoid road trouble and ensure their entire trip is as safe and worry-free as possible. Run through these basic safety checks before setting out.

Tires: *Check air pressure, tread wear & spare.* Check the air pressure in all your tires, especially the neglected spare. To get an accurate reading, check pressure when tires are cold, meaning they haven't been driven on for at least three hours. You can find the correct pressure for your tires listed on a label inside the driver's doorframe or in the vehicle's owner's manual — the correct pressure is not the number listed on the tire itself. Take a few minutes to inspect your tires for signs of excessive or irregular wear. If the tread is worn down to 1/16 of an inch, it's time to replace your tires. If you find irregular tread wear patterns, it means your tires need rotation and/or your wheels need to be realigned before you leave.

Wiper Blades: *Look for wear and tear.* After winter storms and spring rains, it's likely

that your windshield wipers are ragged from use and ready to be replaced. Like rubber belts and hoses, wiper blades are susceptible to the summer heat. Examine your blades for signs of damage. If they aren't in tip-top condition, it would be wise to invest in new ones.

Lights: *Check all of them, front and back.* See and be seen! Ensure all the lights on your vehicle are in working order. Check your headlights, brake lights, turn signals, emergency flashers and interior lights. Towing a trailer? Be sure to check your trailer lights too. Failure of trailer light connections is a common problem and a serious safety hazard.

Planning: *Know your route.* Know the route to your destination. Obtain information on the latest tie-ups, traffic jams, roadway conditions and visibility before you get behind the wheel. This will help you to head off traffic nightmares before they materialize.

For Utah driving, you can check online at: commuterlink.utah.gov before you leave. You can also call 511 which will provide you with local road conditions and travel time. It's a free service; but if you're driving just remember to pull over to make your call or have a passenger call.

Be Prepared: *Have the proper items on hand.* Make sure you have a first aid kit that is up-to-date and stocked with emergency items. Keep several bottles of water in your vehicle as well.



TEXTING WHILE DRIVING

On the day before Thanksgiving last year, Patrick Sims was driving less than a mile from his Denver home and texting a friend, when his girlfriend suddenly screamed. When Sims looked up, he was just inches from a cyclist in the bike lane. "I couldn't swerve my car, I couldn't move it, because he was just too close," Sims recalls. "At that point there was nothing I could do to possibly stop the car accident from happening."

The resulting collision killed a 63-year-old grandfather, and changed Patrick's life forever. "There are no words to say how sorry I am," Sims laments. "... I think about this car accident every single day of my life."

Still, many drivers do it, and don't think twice about the possible consequences. "It didn't seem dangerous," Sims says, "because I had done it plenty of times before."

Unfortunately, Patrick's story is very common. One distraction can lead to a tragedy. In seconds, your life, or someone else's life, can change. Utah has seen similar tragedies and that is why the state has a new law that makes it a primary offense to be texting while driving.

Since May 12, texting or e-mailing while driving is a crime. First-time offenders will be charged with a class C misdemeanor which is up to 90

days in jail and a fine of up to \$750. In addition to those fines and punishments, the judge may order a three-month suspension of the person's driver license.

If a driver inflicts serious bodily injury on another person as a result of texting or e-mailing, or has a prior conviction for this offense within three years, the driver will be charged with a class B misdemeanor which is punishable by up to 6 months in jail and a fine of up to \$1,000, along with driver license suspension. If a person is texting or e-mailing while driving and causes the death of another individual, the driver may be charged with automobile homicide.



TRAFFIC SAFETY OFFICE ACTIVITY

Motorists tend to overestimate their ability to drive while engaged in various mental tasks, according to a study conducted by researchers from the Liberty Mutual Research Institute for Safety. Researchers found that drivers devote more attention to activities that are more engaging. When drivers were asked to do mathematical tasks or play a guessing game they failed to account for the added demands on driving performance. To help employees better understand this, line an outdoor path

with various objects. Have employees walk the path while talking on their cell phones. Afterwards, have them write a list of all the objects that they can remember seeing. Chances are - they won't remember much. This game will illustrate "inattention blindness".

Free Materials Available

Drive Friendly Magnets
NETS Incentives
Traffic Safety Posters and Brochures

To request free materials, contact
Jessica Clark at (800) 933-5943 ext. 303
or e-mail jclark@utahsafetycouncil.org



TRAFFIC SAFETY MANAGEMENT SEMINAR



This year the Traffic Safety Management Seminar will be held on Friday, July 31, 2009 from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. The seminar will feature the National Safety Councils; Dynamics of Fleet

Safety course. Each student will gain the knowledge needed to run an effective and efficient fleet safety operation, large or small.

Dynamics of Fleet Safety normally costs members of the Utah Safety Council \$260.00

but this year NETS members can take the course for just \$25.00, including lunch. If you have colleagues or acquaintances that would be interested in this opportunity, encourage them to join the Network of Employers for Traffic Safety for free at the Utah Safety Council website, www.utahsafetycouncil.org. Once signed up; anyone can enroll in the class. Hurry though, the deadline to register for this year's Traffic Safety Management Seminar is July 14th.

You may register by contacting Jessica Clark at jlark@utahsafetycouncil.org.

DON'T IGNORE CHILDREN LEFT ALONE IN CARS

Even with a window slightly open, on a typical sunny summer day, the temperature inside a vehicle can reach potentially deadly levels within minutes. When left in a hot vehicle, a young child's core body temperature increases three to five times faster than an adults. This could cause permanent injury or even death.

In 2009 the U.S. has already seen more than fifteen deaths from children being left inside hot vehicles. Last year there were more than forty-two such fatalities in the United States; two of them in Utah. A new study shows that these incidents can occur on days with relatively mild temperatures (i.e., 70 degrees F) and that vehicles can reach life-threatening temperatures

very rapidly.

Since 1998 there have been a total of at least 418 needless tragedies due to children being left in hot cars. If you see this happening, don't hesitate to call police. Take a stand against this negligence; it just might save a child's life.



NEW WEBSITE TO HELP DRIVERS AVOID ROAD WORK

www.itruck.utah.gov gives Utah Drivers a new high-tech routing tool. It is a website dedicated to helping drivers navigate around summer road construction. A creation from the Utah Department of Transportation, the website features advance information and real-time updates about highway closures and delays around Utah. This site outlines all of the current and



anticipated road construction projects. A multicolor, fully interactive highway map of the state appears on the screen. Roll the mouse cursor over any part of the map. Construction projects occurring in that area of the state spring onto the screen, providing a list of pertinent information.





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NETS NEWS

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

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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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