



State of New Hampshire Insurance Department

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENTS OF SAFETY AND INSURANCE KICK-OFF TEEN DRIVER SAFETY WEEK

Parents Are Urged to Have Tough Conversations With Their Teen Drivers

CONCORD, NH (October 18, 2021) – The New Hampshire Insurance Department (NHID) and the Department of Safety (DoS) kicked off Teen Driver Safety Week with a press conference and public campaign targeted at parents and their teen drivers.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YGadTovdca0>

Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for teens 15-18 years old in the United States. In New Hampshire, there were six traffic fatalities for drivers aged 15-19 between 2015 and 2020. While yearly teen traffic fatalities decreased statewide over this five year period, even a single preventable teen traffic fatality is unacceptable.

Factors that present the greatest dangers for teen drivers include the use of alcohol and other intoxicating substances, inconsistent or no seat belt use, distracted and drowsy driving, speeding and number of passengers.

“Teen drivers are more expensive to insure, because they are already considered risky, or more likely to be in a crash as an inexperienced driver,” said NHID Commissioner Chris



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Nicolopoulos. “New Hampshire’s teenaged drivers should be aware that if they have a crash that is a result of distracted driving, their auto insurance premium will go up even more – and will stay up for three to five years. We encourage parents and teens to have these important conversations.”

“All drivers, but especially inexperienced teen drivers, must understand the responsibility that comes with driving a motor vehicle,” said New Hampshire Department of Safety Assistant Commissioner Eddie Edwards. “Many crashes are preventable. Whenever anyone operates a motor vehicle, they must do so with 100% focus on driving.”

“Parents can be the biggest influencers on the choices their children make when driving a vehicle,” said NH State Police Captain Christopher Vetter, Commander of the Office of Highway Safety. “Discuss with your child the dangers of operating a vehicle while impaired, the importance of not driving distracted, obeying all posted speed limits, and always wearing a seatbelt.”

“Teen drivers are three times more likely to be killed in a crash than someone who is 20 years or older,” said Dan Goodman, Public Affairs Manager at AAA Northern New England. “It is our hope that this week serves as a reminder to parents everywhere to talk openly and honestly with their young drivers about the steps they need to take behind the wheel.”

A high-definition, broadcast quality video of the press conference can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YGadTovdca0>.

The New Hampshire Insurance Department Can Help

The New Hampshire Insurance Department’s mission is to promote and protect the public good by ensuring the existence of a safe and competitive insurance marketplace through the development and enforcement of the insurance laws of the State of New Hampshire. Contact us with any questions or concerns you may have regarding your insurance coverage at 1-800- 852-3416 or (603) 271-2261, or by email at consumerservices@ins.nh.gov. For more information, visit <https://www.nh.gov/insurance>.

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