

ROLE MODELS FOR THE ROAD

Parent Tips

Help your teen driver. . . Survive the Top 5

September 2004

What are the top five*?

The top five reasons Virginia teens have automobile crashes are:

- Driver Inexperience
- Driver Distractions
- Excessive Speed
- Low Use of Safety Belts
- Use of Alcohol and Illegal Drugs

And more facts**...

- In 2003 the number of teens injured in car crashes jumped 40%.
- The number of teens fatally injured rose 5%.
- The total number of crashes increased 8%.
- Drivers in most fatal crashes are 18 or 19 followed by 17 year olds and 16 year olds.

* Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles Teen Crash Report

** LMD Baseline Awareness Survey for Dying2Drive® 2004

Driver Inexperience

- Practice with your teens... practice, practice, practice.
- Have your teen learn to drive in different situations: on the highway, at night, and under different weather conditions. Remind your teen to listen to weather forecasts.

Driver Distractions

- Be a good role model by showing your teen that you give the road your full attention.
- Demonstrate daily that you don't let distractions get in the way of your safe driving.

Speeding

- Set a good example by driving below the posted speed limit.
- Explain to your teen the consequences of driving too fast for road conditions.

Low Use of Safety Belts

- Demonstrate the habit of buckling-up every time you get in a car.
- Make sure your teen hears you remind all passengers to buckle-up before you begin to drive.

Use of Alcohol and Illegal Drugs

- Never drive when you have been drinking, and do not use illegal drugs!
- Never drive if you have taken any prescription or over-the-counter medicines that can cause drowsiness.

