

New Driver Safety



Safer Alaskan Roads for Alaskan
Drivers

Teenage Drivers Are the Leading Cause in Automobile Accidents

- Young people age 15-24, represent only 14% percent of the US population. However they account for 30% (19 billion) of the total cost of motor vehicle injuries.
- In the United States, the crash rate per mile driven by 16-19 year olds is 4 times the risk for older driver
- Insurance rates for 16-25 are higher and premium increases of 50 to 100 percent are not unheard of.

Leading cause of death among teenagers by gender in 2006

Cause of Death	Male	Female	Total
Motor Vehicles	3,415	1,744	5,159
Homicide	2,106	337	2,443
Suicide	1,370	348	1,718
Malignant neoplasms	515	345	860

Alaska Statistics for Drivers 14-16 2004-2008

Motor Vehicle Traffic Crashes Involving Drivers age 14-16, 2004-2008

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Crashes	692	592	477	441	437
Property Damage Only	428	377	307	270	288
Minor Injury Crashes	222	191	146	137	127
Major Injury Crashes	37	22	19	28	15
Fatal Crashes	5	2	5	6	7
Non-Fatal Injuries	398	321	256	264	223
Minor Injuries	348	296	228	230	201
Major Injuries	50	25	28	34	22
Fatal Injuries	5	2	5	7	8
Occupants Not Injured	1830	1361	1195	987	1070

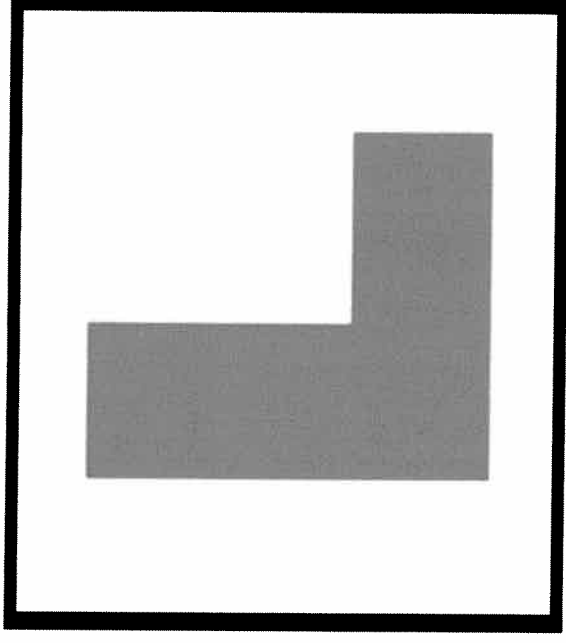
Source: State of Alaska, Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, Highway Analysis System (HAS)

New Teen Drivers

- Teenage drivers with their Instructional Permit are more likely to be a hazard due to:
 - Lack of experience
 - Inclement weather conditions
 - Apprehension
 - Alaska has no Driver's Education requirement

Solution

- Require that all persons acquiring a Instructional Permit be required to place a “L” magnet representing Learner on the back and front of the vehicle that they are driving.



Why This Solution?

- This solution will provide safety to other Alaskan drivers.
- It will provide other drivers and police officers awareness of the type of driver that they are dealing with.
- Impress other driver's to be more cautious driving around the new teen driver

Points

- If a teen driver with an Instructional permit is found not using their car magnet on the back and front, then they will be subject to accumulating 1 point on their record.



Procedures

- The state of Alaska will supply the Department of Motor Vehicles with magnets to distribute those persons acquiring an Instructional permit
- Those acquiring an Instructional permit will pay for the magnets as part of the permitting process.
- Magnets will be placed on the front and back of their vehicle when the permit holder is the primary driver

Legislative Actions

- Ask legislative staff for assistance in writing a bill
- Ask Representative to introduce this bill for consideration during this legislative session
- Seek support from other legislative sponsors of this bill
- Seek comments from DOT&PF, DPS, DOA/DMV

Summary

- Teen drivers with only Instructional Permits new to Alaskan roads are hazardous to themselves and other Alaskans
- Provide a requirement to new drivers so that Alaskan driver may be aware of who is on Alaskan roads
- Reduce the number of accidents in Alaska and help save young Alaskan lives

