



# MONTANA ROUNDAABOUT



NEWS FROM THE TRAFFIC EDUCATION OFFICE—MONTANA OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Spring 2015

## On the Road to a Safer Summer

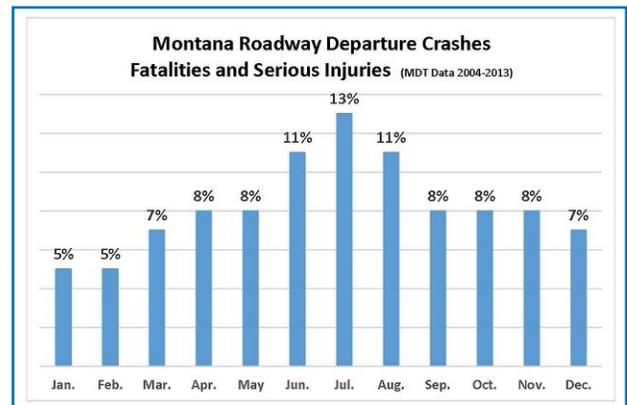


**A**ccording to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), May and July are two of the deadliest months for all drivers, but especially teen drivers. Summer brings outdoor parties, prom, graduations, road trips, vacations, and summer jobs. Teens now have other reasons to drive, beyond driving to and from school. Unfortunately, because of the added freedom that summer offers, and the extra time behind the wheel, the period between Memorial Day and Labor Day are known as the 100 Deadliest Days of Summer. In Montana, the summer months of June through August account for 35% of all fatalities and serious injuries, and over half (52%) of roadway departure crashes occur Friday through Sunday. **This might just be the most important season to remind young drivers to buckle up, drive rested and sober, control speed, and avoid distractions of all kinds.**

Traffic safety education is one effective way we address these risks. As we reported in our fall Montana Roundabout, 8,530 students completed a driver education course offered by their school district. And while the number seems small in comparison, the **Montana DRIVE Program** run by the OPI each summer in Lewistown, trains 36 teens and up to 500 adults to drive with greater skill and awareness about the risks drivers face in Montana. The one-day advanced driving workshops focus on evasive techniques, off-road recovery, cornering, and strategic braking — all skills that drivers have said helped them to avoid a crash. Workshops are still available for the 2015 summer season, but are filling up quickly.

Teen drivers need to fill out a State Farm scholarship application to apply for a \$200 reduction in the \$280 workshop. Teachers can take the Montana DRIVE Workshop for one college credit if they stay an extra day to student teach, pay a fee to MSU-N, and write a paper. The one-day adult workshops are \$315.

Contact the Traffic Education Office at the OPI to learn more or visit <http://www.montanadrive.mt.gov>.



## Traffic Education Instructors are Needed in Montana

Montana needs more trained traffic education instructors to ensure teen drivers can get professional behind-the-wheel and traffic safety instruction before earning their driver license. School districts can encourage local K-12 teachers with good driving records to take the initial eight credits of traffic safety education summer courses. They can begin teaching traffic education as early as mid-July. The blended program at MSU-Northern in Havre includes online and onsite courses from May to early July.

Some school districts have supported K-12 teachers with tuition grants tied to agreements to teach several sessions of traffic education. MSU-N summer tuition and fees are approximately \$2,000.



For details, contact Randy Bachmeier at MSU-N: (800) 662-6132 x3730. For a schedule of summer courses, visit: <http://www.msun.edu/distance/>. Visit the OPI's Traffic Education web page, **Teaching Traffic Education**, to see what is required to become a state-approved teacher of traffic education in Montana: <http://opi.mt.gov/Programs/DriverEd> or call our office with questions.

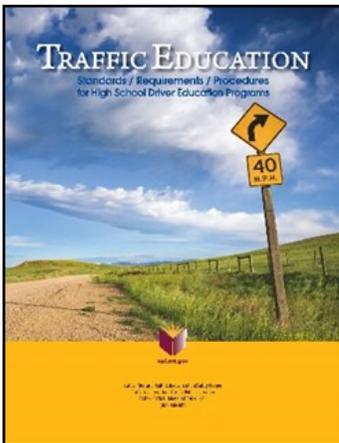
**THE MONTANA ROUNDABOUT**

Published in the spring and fall for Montana schools with state-approved traffic education programs for young novice drivers. The MONTANA ROUNDABOUT is produced by the Traffic Education Office at the Montana Office of Public Instruction. Written and edited by Fran Penner-Ray, Traffic Education Director and Patti Borneman, Program Specialist. (406) 444-4432. Montana Office of Public Instruction, PO Box 202501, Helena, MT 59620.

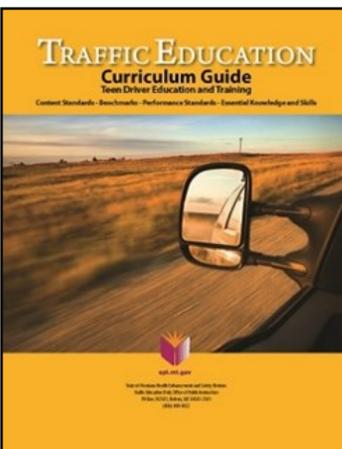


Montana  
Office of Public Instruction  
Denise Juneau, State Superintendent

opi.mt.gov



**TRAFFIC EDUCATION:**  
*Standards, Requirements & Procedures for High School Driver Education Programs*



**TRAFFIC EDUCATION:**  
*Curriculum Guide—Teen Driver Education and Training*

Download these documents from the OPI's web site or request a printed copy from the Traffic Education Office.

**TRAFFIC EDUCATION FAQs**

- Q:** *Can we add newly hired instructors to our program after it has been approved?*
- A:** Yes, but districts must notify the OPI Traffic Education office so we can check their driving record, make sure they are approved to teach traffic ed, and add the instructor to the district application. We also ensure they are CDTP-certified so they can administer the knowledge and driving exams, and issue learner licenses.
- Q:** *If a teen driver has completed driver education in another state and moves to Montana, can they get an early license in Montana?*
- A:** No, the teen driver who has not completed driver education in Montana will need to take driver education in Montana if they want to get a driver license before age 16. Otherwise, they can wait until they are 16 to take the knowledge exam and get their learner license in Montana.
- Q:** *If a student receives a TELL permit during their driver education class, but then does not successfully complete the class, is the TELL permit still valid?*
- A:** No. The Traffic Education Learner's License they received while in the class is invalid when they fail the course and it should be returned to the instructor.
- Q:** *Can a student fail the CDTP knowledge exam, but still successfully complete the driver education course?*
- A:** Yes. Some students need more time to pass the exam that allows them to get their learner's license. This shouldn't affect their ability to complete all the coursework and the minimum of six hours behind the wheel with their instructor. The CDTP allows students to take the knowledge exam up to three times.

***DISTRACTED: Eyes off the Road—Montana Documentary***

***We've all seen it, we've all done it, and yet it continues to happen on Montana's roads every day. This documentary explores the consequences of driving while distracted through the stories of those who have experienced it first hand. Can we put the brakes on this behavior?***

*Distracted: Eyes off the Road* was produced by students from the University of Montana who visited Sidney, MT to film a documentary about Janae Moore who died in 2013. Sidney High School had an all-school assembly featuring Jozi Moore, who spoke about her sister's tragic car crash and how texting was involved. The film crew filmed the assembly, filmed Jozi throughout the day at school, and interviewed staff.

The film can be streamed at <http://watch.montanapbs.org/video/2365250868/> or you can order a copy for \$10 plus \$2 s/h from the UM School of Journalism. Contact Cameron Bucheit via email: [Cameron.bucheit@umontana.edu](mailto:Cameron.bucheit@umontana.edu) or call: (406)243-4001.

## TRAFFIC EDUCATION DATA & REPORTING SYSTEM



The Internet-based **Traffic Education and Data Reporting System** (TEDRS) is used by almost all Montana school districts to enter Traffic Education district applications, student lists, and year-end reports. Superintendents, principals, district staff and instructors are authorized to use TEDRS to manage their traffic education programs and submit the required forms to the OPI and the Motor Vehicle Division.

Do you already access OPI's MAEFAIRS or Pupil Transportation web applications using your OPI Common Login and password? You can use the same username and password to log into TEDRS once you are granted access. The Traffic Education Office provides ongoing training and troubleshooting, so please call for assistance. Call: (406) 444-4432 or email: [pborneman@mt.gov](mailto:pborneman@mt.gov).



### Learning to design better and faster cars: *F-1 in Schools* comes to Montana

Eleven Montana high schools received *F 1 in Schools* grants to design, engineer, and test better, faster cars using CAD/CAM software and 3D printers.

Teams of students ages 9 to 19 will participate in the statewide Technology Challenge at Montana Tech in Butte on May 2, 2015. The winning state teams will travel to the F1 national competition in Chicago. The national winners will then attend the 2015 world event in Singapore.

The challenge inspires students to use Information Technology to learn about physics, aerodynamics, design, manufacture, branding, graphics, sponsorship, marketing, leadership/teamwork, media skills and financial strategy, and apply them in a practical, imaginative, competitive and exciting way.

For more information about F-1 in Schools, visit: <http://www.f1inschools.com/>.

### REDUCING TEEN DRIVER CRASHES – GDL WORKS!

Montana's GRADUATED DRIVER LICENSING (GDL) law (MCA 61.5.132-135) is a three-step program that reduces the risk while new drivers under age 18 develop and improve their driving skills. Teens still get to drive—with supervision—and gradually gain experience to begin driving on their own, but with restrictions on night driving and passengers.

#### THREE SIMPLE STEPS

1. **Traffic Education Learner's License (TELL)** – requires **50** hours of **supervised** practice with **10** hours at night for a minimum of **6** months, and no alcohol, drug or traffic citations.
2. **One-Year Restricted License** – Allows **solo driving**; restrictions include curfew and limiting passengers.
3. **Full Driver's License** – After **one year** on the restricted license.

Download the new **GDL Parents Fact Sheet and Teen Driver Log**:  
<http://www.opi.mt.gov/Programs/DriverEd>.

#### CUT OUT & POST

**THIS HANDY LIST OF  
IMPORTANT DATES,  
DEADLINES AND CONTACTS**

#### **TRAFFIC EDUCATION FORMS PLEASE USE TEDRS**

**TE01 Program Application**  
*Due August 1 for fall programs  
or before program begins.*

**TE03 Certification & TE04 Student  
List** Enter and submit forms to the  
OPI using TEDRS at **beginning and  
completion** of each course.

**TE06 Year-End Report**  
*Due before July 10 for annual Traffic  
Education reimbursement payment in  
August for courses ending by June 30.*

#### **YOUR TE PROGRAM TEAM We are here to help ...**

##### **OPI Traffic Education**

<http://opi.mt.gov/Programs/DriverEd/>

**FRAN PENNER-RAY**  
(406) 444-4396  
[fpenner-ray@mt.gov](mailto:fpenner-ray@mt.gov)

**PATTI BORNEMAN**  
(406) 444-4432  
[pborneman@mt.gov](mailto:pborneman@mt.gov)

##### **DOJ/Motor Vehicle Division**

<https://dojmt.gov/driving/>

**TAMMY STEFANIK**  
(406) 444-1779  
[tstefanik@mt.gov](mailto:tstefanik@mt.gov)

##### **Montana State University- Northern at Havre**

<http://www.msun.edu/distance>

**RANDY BACHMEIER**  
(800) 662-6132 x3730  
[rbachmeier@msu.edu](mailto:rbachmeier@msu.edu)



**Montana Traffic  
Education Association**  
<http://www.MTEAonline.org>

*Always buckle up ...  
we want to see YOU again*

## IMPORTANT TRAFFIC EDUCATION DATES

- **DEADLINE FOR YOUR TE06 YEAR-END REPORT IS COMING UP!** Submit via TEDRS before July 10 to receive your reimbursement this August for traffic education programs ending by June 30.
- **TE01 DISTRICT APPLICATIONS DUE BEFORE PROGRAM BEGINS:** Classes ending by June 30 — SUBMIT 2015 TE01 District Application. Classes that will end after July 1—SUBMIT 2016 TE01 District Application.
- **TE04 STUDENT LISTS:** Enter and submit using TEDRS at **beginning and completion** of each course.

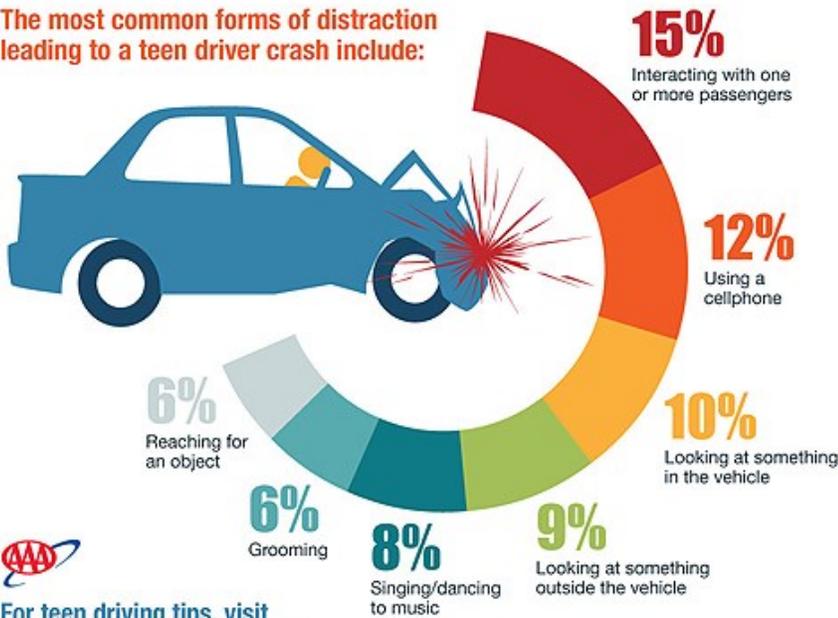


Traffic Education Office  
 Montana Office of Public Instruction  
 PO Box 202501  
 Helena, MT 59620

[opi.mt.gov](http://opi.mt.gov)

# 6 OUT OF 10 teen crashes involve driver distraction.

The most common forms of distraction leading to a teen driver crash include:



  
 For teen driving tips, visit  
[TeenDriving.AAA.com](http://TeenDriving.AAA.com)



### Montana Traffic Education Association:

A resource for teachers, administrators and traffic safety professionals.

The OPI Traffic Education Office partners with MTEA throughout the year to guide professional development opportunities for Montana’s traffic educators.

- Join us at the 2015 annual spring conference April 26-28 in Great Falls. New attendees can put their name in a drawing for one of three \$150 David Huff Memorial Scholarships.
- Become a member or recruit a new member in your school district.
- Visit [MTEAOnline.org](http://MTEAOnline.org) to read MTEA News and learn more about the organization.
- MTEA has a new Facebook page! Search for “Montana Traffic Education Association” — like and share!

