



# MONTANA ROUNDAABOUT



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

SPRING 2017

## Safe Summer Driving Tips for Teens and Everyone Else

Last year, Montana high schools trained more than 8,500 teens in the driving skills needed to stay safe on our roads and highways. Young drivers are crashing less than in previous years, but summertime continues to be the season when teen crashes rise. School is out and teens are on the go.



It doesn't hurt to remind teens and everyone how to drive safely in summer:

**DON'T SPEED:** Critical teen driver errors include driving too fast for conditions and failing to detect and respond to hazards in time. Consider your own close calls with the curve in the road, the deer in the headlights, or the time you looked, but didn't see the other truck at the intersection. *Slow down and enjoy the view.*

**EYES ON THE ROAD:** Montana high school students reported 58% used a cell phone while driving and 54.6% texted while driving during the past 30 days. *Cars still need attentive drivers, even with fancy technology.*

**TAKE THE NEXT RIDE:** The more passengers in a car, the more distracted the driver. *Say no to extra passengers, especially if they can't all buckle up.*

**STAY SOBER AND ALERT:** Drunk and drugged driving increases in the summer. Drowsy driving in the heat is also a summer risk. *Designated drivers save lives!*

**BUCKLE UP:** The majority of teen drivers and teen passengers who died in crashes were not wearing seatbelts. *We can't say it enough: Seat belts save lives.*

**LEAD BY EXAMPLE:** During driver education, teachers and parents work together to help teens build safe driving habits. Even after licensing, we can lead by example by following the rules of the road. *Steer through summer safely!*

 Summer driving resources from NHTSA: <https://www.nhtsa.gov/summer-driving-tips-2017>

IMAGINE IF EVERY MONTANAN HAD  
**just one reason**  
FOR USING THEIR SEAT BELT.

The Montana Department of Transportation has launched a new seat belt campaign: JUST ONE REASON. Learn more at <http://www.mdt.mt.gov/visionzero/onereason/>

## Montana Legislature Expands Supervised Teen Driving

The first step of Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) requires that teens with a Learner License drive supervised for at least six months (and 50+ hours) before they can receive a first-year restricted license. The 2017 Montana Legislature revised licensing laws with the passage of HB 144. These changes went into effect on May 4, 2017 and some of these changes affect traffic education programs.



The Traffic Education Learner License (TELL) is now a **Learner License** issued by a COTP instructor or driver examiner (amended 61-5-106 MCA). This Learner License allows parents/guardians and **other licensed adults authorized by the parent/legal guardian** to supervise a teen driver during Step 1 of the GDL.

The parent/legal guardian signing the Driver License Application is still financially liable for damages or losses resulting from a crash caused by the teen driver.

Teens with a Learner License (even those issued prior to May 4, 2017) can now drive with other authorized, licensed adults such as stepparents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and adult siblings. Seat belts are required.

Visit the OPI Traffic Education webpage to download a new *GDL Factsheet and Driving Log and Module 1 of the Teen Driver Curriculum* (for your Parent Meeting).

If you would like more information or have questions, contact Fran or Patti at the Traffic Education Office.



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Montana Office of Public Instruction  
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## Traffic Education Deadlines for Summer Programs and Year-End Reports



Submit your **TE06 Year-End Report** to the OPI before **July 10** for an estimated reimbursement of \$90-\$100 for each student who completed a traffic education course at your school between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017. The actual reimbursement amount will be determined when all TE04 Student Lists and TE06 Year-End Reports have been received and the number of students is divided by the percentage of driver license fees allocated for reimbursement to schools. Reimbursements are issued in mid-August.

Please make sure your program is approved by the OPI *before* the start of your summer program. For classes ending before or on June 30, submit your **TE01 District Application** in the 2017 school year. If your course will end in July, August or September, it must be entered in school year 2018.

Use the Traffic Education Data & Reporting System (TEDRS) to enter and submit these forms to the OPI. You can also use TEDRS to check your school's Student Count Report and search for students who completed traffic education since 2012.

Contact Fran or Patti for more information or assistance with submitting forms and reports via TEDRS. To receive important Traffic Education reminders and updates, sign up for OPI Traffic Education e-news: <http://opi.mt.gov/Subscriptions/>

## Montana DRIVE One-Day Summer Workshop



Montana DRIVE Workshops in Lewistown are filling up this summer. Operated by the Office of Public Instruction and on track in Lewistown since 1979, these popular one-day behind-the-wheel workshops help drivers learn and practice techniques for managing and avoiding risky driving situations.

For registration details and workshop calendar, visit <http://montanadrive.mt.gov>, call the Traffic Education Office at (406) 444.4432, or email [montanadrive@mt.gov](mailto:montanadrive@mt.gov).

**THE MONTANA ROUNDABOUT** is published in the spring and fall for Montana schools with state-approved traffic education programs for young novice drivers and produced by the Traffic Education Office at the Montana Office of Public Instruction. Contact Fran Penner-Ray, Traffic Education Director (406) 444-4396 or Patti Borneman, Program Specialist. (406) 444-4432. Montana Office of Public Instruction, PO Box 202501, Helena, MT 59620. [www.opi.mt.gov](http://www.opi.mt.gov)

## CUT OUT & POST ...

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

**TE01 Program Application** is 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** is due **before July 10** for annual Traffic Education reimbursement paid in August for courses ending by June 30.

### YOUR TE CONTACTS:

**OPI Traffic Education**  
<http://opi.mt.gov/Programs/DriverEd/>

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