



NTSB

SAFETY ALERT

National Transportation Safety Board

★ **Graduated Driver Licensing**

***Give young drivers the help they need
to become better drivers and to save lives***

The grim facts

- Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for teenagers.
- From 2000 through 2009, more than 58,000 young people aged 15-20 died in traffic crashes – 110 each week.
- In 2009, 5,148 young drivers ages 15-20 were involved in fatal crashes, and 2,064 young drivers were killed.
- Over the last 10 years, teen drivers represented less than 7 percent of the driving population, but accounted for more than 13 percent of drivers involved in all deadly crashes. More than 20 percent of all highway fatalities occurred in crashes that involved teen drivers.
- Sixteen-year-old drivers are more than twice as likely to be involved in fatal crashes as older drivers.
- The risk of a crash increases greatly with each additional teen passenger riding with a young teen driver.
- Two-thirds of the passengers who were killed in teen driver crashes were teenagers themselves.

Effective actions to save lives of young drivers

- Studies from nearly a dozen states show that deaths and serious injuries from traffic crashes involving young drivers declined by as much as 58 percent following enactment of graduated licensing provisions, depending on the provisions of the law.
- These requirements for a three-stage licensing program are recommended by the NTSB:

Learner's permit

- 6-month minimum holding period (without an at-fault driver or traffic violation).
- Supervised driver requirement with supervising driver age 21 or older.
- Seat belts used by all occupants in all seating positions.
- Driving with a measurable blood alcohol level prohibited.
- Cell phone use by drivers prohibited while driving.

Intermediate (provisional) license

- 6-month minimum holding period (without an at-fault crash or traffic violation).
- Nighttime driving restriction.
- Teen passenger restriction (zero or 1 passenger).
- Seat belts used by all occupants in all seating positions.
- Driving with a measurable blood alcohol level prohibited.
- Cell phone use by drivers prohibited while driving.

Full licensure

- Seat belts used by all occupants in all seating positions.
- Driving with a measurable blood alcohol level by all drivers under age 21 prohibited.

What can you do to save the lives of young, novice drivers?

- Make sure your teen driver follows the stages and restrictions recommended by the NTSB.
- Talk to or write to your state and local lawmakers and urge them to support the NTSB's recommendations concerning graduated driver licensing.
- Urge state and local law enforcement to strictly enforce graduated driver licensing laws.

Need more information?

- Visit the NTSB Web site: www.nts.gov