

Misconceptions Listed On State Traffic Laws

Here are six common misconceptions of Pennsylvania traffic laws:

- The driver on the right always has the right-of-way at an unmarked intersection. That's wrong. State law generally gives the car which has entered the intersection first the right-of-way. The car on the right usually has the right-of-way when two cars approach the intersection at about the same time.
- Cars always have the right-of-way over pedestrians. Not so. Unless otherwise indicated, pedestrians have the right-of-way at all intersections and marked crosswalks in a business or residential district.
- When a school bus stops to pick up or discharge children, you have to stop only if you're behind it and traveling in the same direction. Only partly correct. No matter which direction you're driving, you should stop when the bus stops, unless you are traveling in the opposite direction on a multiple roadway with safety islands or physical separations. In this event, you must reduce your speed to 15 miles per hour until you have passed the bus.
- You don't have to stop on yellow when a traffic signal is changing from green to red. Wrong. Pennsylvania law says approaching traffic should stop on yellow unless the car already has entered the intersection or can't stop with safety. But if you can't stop safely, chances are you are going too fast.
- Bicycles aren't subject to traffic laws. No. Bicyclists must obey the same laws as drivers of motor vehicles.
- If you're found not guilty in a police case, you'll be in the clear in a civil case. Not necessarily. In Pennsylvania, the criminal and civil cases are separate and have no bearing on each other. You could be found not guilty in a police court but still lose in a civil court if it's proved you are in the wrong.



EXTRA CAUTION can keep you from being a statistic.

The Deadly Facts

Here are the deadly facts on motor-vehicle accidents for 1956 as compiled by the National Safety Council:

Deaths	40,000
Injuries*	1,500,000
Motor Vehicle Mileage	630,000,000,000
Costs	\$5,000,000,000
Death Rate Per 100,000 Miles	6.4

Breakdown of Fatal Accidents:

Pedestrian	7,950
2-Vehicle Collisions	13,850
Single Vehicle Accidents	14,650
Collision With Trains	1,280
Collisions With Bicycles	480
Collision With Fixed Objects	1,650
Other	150

*Disabling beyond day of accident

Warning to Students: Speeding, Drinking Big Fatality Causes

By DENNY MALICK

A special warning to students on the way home for the Christmas vacation: about three out of 10 drivers in fatal accidents were violating a speed law, according to an 18-state survey.

The National Safety Council says 22 per cent of the drivers in the survey were exceeding stated speed limits while 10 per cent were exceeding safe speeds although they were within stated speed limit.

Another fatal fact that has been pointed out to students is that among drivers in fatal accidents where a condition was stated, 22 out of 100 had been drinking, according to reports in 20 states.

The National Safety Council shows statistic after statistic that couples speed and drinking with death.

Speeding on rural highways ranging from wide, modern superhighways to narrow, winding two-lane roads, is especially dangerous, according to the safety reports.

On rural highways, 38 per cent of the fatal crashes involved drivers who were speeding. Even these figures do not show the speed danger in its true light, the Council says. Since in most accidents only one driver is speeding, the speed is reported for a higher

percentage of accidents than of drivers.

Statistics show that autos traveling over 50 miles an hour are involved in 40 per cent of fatal accidents. Of this total 11 per cent were traveling over 70 miles an hour and another 11 per cent between 60 and 70.

In urban areas, safety council figures show, 38 per cent of the cars involved in death crashes were traveling over 30 miles per hour which is above the speed limit in most of these areas.


With all the festivities over the Christmas and New Year's holidays, driving will be more dangerous since the number of drinking drivers will increase. The National Safety Council stresses to drivers that alcohol and gasoline do not mix.

Special studies on highway fatalities over Christmas show that

55 per cent include drinking drivers. The degree of intoxication ranged from a trace to "under the influence." Studies show that even one glass may distort reaction time enough to cause a fatal crash.

The state of Delaware has adopted the policy of taking blood samples from all victims of fatal motor-vehicle accidents and also to request either blood samples or breath tests from all people involved.

The figures show 51 per cent of the fatalities involved drinking drivers. Of the drivers, 38 per cent had been drinking and of this total 62 per cent had 15 per cent or more alcohol in the bloodstream.



DRIVER'S QUIZ

When blinded by the glare of approaching headlights, it is best to:

- Put lights on low beam and get by as quickly as possible.
- Put lights on high beam to get even with the approaching driver.
- Stay on low beam, slow down, keep eyes on right edge of road.

Do you know the answer to this quick motor quiz? Getting the correct answer won't win you any money, but it could save your life in a similar situation.

*Choice (C) is the correct answer. Did YOU get it?

DRIVE CAREFULLY
Save your LICENSE AND YOUR LIFE

PUBLISHED BY YOUR NEWSPAPER IN THE INTEREST OF HIGHWAY SAFETY
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COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

George M. Leader, Governor Gerald A. Gioseon, Secretary of Revenue

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TODAY

Hillel, Lighting of Hanukkah candles, 4:30 p.m., Foundation
Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship, Christmas Caroling, 7:30 p.m., Old Main
WDFM, Christmas Pageant, 7-12 p.m.
Wesley Foundation, Graduate Student Fellowship Supper, 5:30 p.m.

TONIGHT ON WDFM

6:45: Sign on and News; 7:00 "A" Train; 7:50: State News and National Sports; 8:00: Hubzapoppin'; 8:30: Friday Night News Round-up; 9:00: Just For Two; 10:00: News; 10:05: Light Classical Juke-Box; 11:00: News and Sign-off.



DRIVER'S QUIZ

When driving in a heavy fog, it is best to:

- Lower the beams of the headlights.
- Turn lights to upper beam.
- Stop the car until the fog has lifted.

Do you know the answer to this quick motor quiz? Getting the correct answer won't win you any money, but it could save your life in a similar situation.

*Choice (A) is the correct answer. Did YOU get it?

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