



SPEED

Definition: Exceeding the posted speed limit or driving too fast for conditions.

Speed reduces the amount of available time required to avoid a crash, it increases the likelihood of crashing and it increases the severity of a crash when it occurs. Along with the obvious dangers of speeding, the effectiveness of air bags, seat belts, your vehicles own crumple zones and side beams, are all negatively impacted when a crash occurs at a higher speed.

Speeding is one of the **most prevalent FACTORS** that contribute to a motor vehicle crash. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, (NHTSA), estimates that speed-related crashes have an estimated societal cost of over 40 billion dollars. In 2008, 31% of vehicle accidents were caused by speeding, more than any other contributing factor. Alcohol impairment and speeding often go hand-in-hand. Statistics from 1998 show that 43 percent of drivers with a 0.10 BAC or higher who were involved in fatal crashes were **speeding**. For fatal accidents, the most frequently reported contributory factor was loss of control of a vehicle.

Young MALE drivers, (teenagers), are the largest demographic group that drive a vehicle while **speeding**. However, a new study suggests that teenage girls are the “new teenage boys” due to over half of them admitting to *texting* while driving over the speed limit. Young men are still twice as likely to die in a CRASH due to speeding.

Research shows a definite correlation between increased speed and the risk of injury or death. If an individual is driving in a 35 mph zone at 40 mph, they will be twice as likely to be involved in an injury or death accident. When the speed increases to 45 mph, the risk increases to four times greater. Surveys reveal that over 90% of all licensed drivers will speed at some point during their driving career, so we cannot only blame speeding on the entire teenage population. In fact, 75% of drivers admit to speeding on a regular basis. So who are the speeders/reckless drivers? They are young, middle-aged and old; men and women, they drive luxury cars, sports cars, SUV's and family cars.

Speed Limits: (Unless otherwise posted)

- Rural Interstate toll ways, freeways and some four-lane highways = **65mph**
- Most other highways and rural areas = **55mph**
- City/Town areas = **30mph**
- Alleys = **15mph**
- School Zones = **20mph** (on School days between 7am and 4pm when children are present and SIGNS are posted).

Note: *When minimum limits are NOT posted, drivers should not drive so slow as to create an interference with the normal flow of traffic.*

See Orange.

Slow Down.

Save Lives!