

## CRASH SAFETY

Before you are involved in a crash, ensure that you have the proper information in your vehicle. You will need your driver's license, proof of paid insurance, and your vehicle registration. You should also be aware of where your vehicle identification number is located in your car. Carry flares and a notepad and pen in your car.

**If you are involved in a crash, as a driver or a passenger, it is important to remember these important steps in order to stay safe after the crash:**

- Before exiting your vehicle, watch for oncoming traffic.
- Check for injuries. If people are injured, that is your first priority. If no one is injured, move your vehicle out of the roadway to a safer place where you can exchange information with the drivers of other vehicles involved in the crash.
- Always call the police when an injury or fatality is involved. You should also call the police when the cars cannot be moved, when one of the drivers is intoxicated, when one of the drivers has no insurance, and when one of the drivers leaves the scene of the crash before exchanging information.
- If you cannot move your vehicle, protect the scene with flares or by raising your hood and move any persons to the side of the roadway.
- Exchange contact information, vehicle identification and license plate numbers, driver's license information. Never leave the scene of a crash without exchanging information or calling the police, when appropriate. If you hit a vehicle that is parked, find the driver, or write your information in a note that you leave with the vehicle.

**Most Missouri college students make safe and smart decisions while operating a vehicle.** However, unsafe driving habits occur often without the driver realizing it. Your university and the Missouri Department of Transportation are driven to help Missouri's college students drive safe and drive smart.

## DRIVE SAFE DRIVE SMART

Learn more at  
**[drivesafedrivesmart.missouri.edu](http://drivesafedrivesmart.missouri.edu)**

**ARRIVE  
ALIVE**

 Partners in  
Prevention  
**[pip.missouri.edu](http://pip.missouri.edu)**

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# DRIVE SAFE DRIVE SMART

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## INATTENTIVE DRIVING

Sometimes driving can feel routine, but you can never be fully prepared for what happens when you're behind the wheel.

- If you are driving at 55 mph and take your eyes off the road, in a span of 3-4 seconds you have traveled the length of a football field.
- If you are using your cell phone while driving you are four times more likely to be involved in a crash.
- Texters are much more prone to drift out of their lane - steering control is 91% poorer than that of attentive drivers.
- Being awake for 18 hours has a similar effect on your alertness as having a BAC of .08 (the legal limit of intoxication) and leaves you at an equal risk for a crash.

You can stay alert while driving by taking any of the following steps:

- Try to get enough sleep every day.
- Plan ahead for long trips by figuring in breaks or driver switches to help stay focused.
- Avoid driving in the mid-afternoon and between midnight and 6:00 am.
- Put down your phone-designate a passenger to text for you if you can't wait or pull into a parking lot and send your messages.



Because text messaging requires visual, manual, and cognitive attention from the driver, it is by far one of the most alarming and dangerous distractions.


## SPEEDING AND AGGRESSIVE DRIVING

Being aggressive and speeding behind the wheel makes driving dangerous and jeopardizes the safety of others who share the road with you.

- A car traveling at 60 mph will take about 7 seconds to come to a complete stop in good weather conditions.
- Speeding can lower your gas mileage by 33% at highway speeds and by 5% around town.
- Each 5 mph you drive over 60 mph is like paying an extra 25 cents per gallon for gas.
- For every 10 mph you drive over 50 mph, you double your chances of death or serious injury.

You can be safe and avoid aggressive driving by:

- Leaving a little early and allow extra time to get to your destination.
- Maintaining a safe distance from the vehicle ahead of you.
- Following the speed limit.



Seatbelts reduce serious crash related injuries and deaths by about half

## SEAT BELTS

While it may not prevent a crash, wearing a safety belt during a crash can significantly increase your chances of surviving that crash.

- 3 out of 4 Missouri college students always wear their seatbelts.
- Most crashes occur at speeds less than 40 miles per hour and 75 % of them occur within 2.5 miles from home.
- There were 3,885 young drivers (15-20 years old) involved in crashes resulting in fatalities in 2014. Of those young drivers who survived the accidents, 84% of 90% surviving were wearing seatbelts.

## DRINKING AND DRIVING

Most Missouri college students choose not to drink and drive. In fact, 88% have used a designated driver when they needed one in the past year. Drinking slows reaction time, decreases awareness, and impairs judgment. College students are particularly at risk.

- 26% of all Missouri traffic accidents in 2014 were related to impaired driving.
- 197 people in Missouri were killed in traffic crashes that involved at least one impaired driver in 2014.
- 724 people in Missouri were severely injured in traffic crashes that involved at least one impaired driver in 2014.
- Every 2 minutes, a person is injured in a drunk driving accident.
- Every day in the United States, 27 people die as a result of drunk driving accidents.

### Keep Yourself and Others Safe

Make sure you arrange for a designated driver who will consume no alcohol if you plan to drink.

- If everyone in your party has been drinking, call a taxi or a sober friend to pick you up.
- Never ride home with the "least drunk" person in the group.
- If you are the designated driver, use the CHEERS program in your community to get free non-alcoholic beverages at participating bars and restaurants.

