



# BROOME COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY BOARD NEWSLETTER

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## National Stop on Red Week August 5<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup>

August/ September 2007

Red light running is a dangerous and costly traffic violation in our country. According to the 2005 *Safety Evaluation of Red-Light Cameras* red light running is estimated to produce more than 100,000 crashes and approximately 1,000 deaths per year in the United States. Red light running is a serious problem with devastating consequences. Drivers who fail to stop at red lights increase their risk of hitting another vehicle or pedestrian causing major intersection congestion. Out of 1,363 crashes that occurred in 2005 in Broome County, 62 of these crashes resulted from drivers disregarding traffic control. These 62 crashes resulted in 58 personal injuries and 4 property damages. This same problem exists throughout the state. 138,004 crashes occurred in 2005 in New York and approximately 7,281 crashes resulted from traffic control signal disregard. This resulted in 79 fatalities, 7,023 injuries and 179 property damages ([www.safeny.com](http://www.safeny.com)). And why? Because drivers are in a hurry, they are impatient and inattentive and they think running a red light is really not that serious. But it is. Red light running alone not only costs Americans billions of dollars every year but it costs us lives. That is why the National Stop on Red Week campaign has been established to educate drivers about the dangers of red light running, to reestablish respect for traffic signals, to enhance the safety of our nation's drivers and pedestrians as well as to reduce the number of injuries and fatalities resulting from this problem. However, education is not the sole solution. In order to fully combat this problem, education, enforcement and engineering efforts are required. Increasing enforcement efforts by ticketing drivers who run red lights could be part of the solution as well as installing red light cameras at busy intersections to not only deter drivers from running red lights but to ticket violators. Unfortunately, only 35 cities in the whole country as of 2005 use red light cameras. So that is why the Broome County Traffic Safety Board is encouraging all drivers to stop at red lights. And remember, yellow lights are not an indicator to speed up but to slow down!!

Don't forget to wear **RED**  
during Stop on Red Week!



### Red Light Running Key Messages:

- It is a dangerous and costly national problem.
- A crash caused by a driver who runs a red light can have the same result as a crash caused by a drunk driver- serious injury or death.
- It is often a result of aggressive driving.
- It is completely preventable.
- The time saved by avoiding a red light is on average about 47 seconds and is not worth it compared to the potential cost of a human life.
- Safety is a shared responsibility. The Federal Highway Administration is responsible for building & maintaining safe roads but drivers must make smart decisions and be responsible on the road.

# Pedestrian Safety

Some Important Traffic Safety Tips.....

## Pedestrians:

- Must obey *ALL* traffic signs, signals & pavement markings when crossing a street.
- Can't walk on expressways or interstate highways.
- Must yield to drivers when there is no crosswalk, sign or signal.
- Must use the sidewalk if it is available & safe.
- Must walk on the left hand side of the road if there is no sidewalk.

## Drivers:

- Must yield right-of-way to pedestrians when there is no signal (unmarked crosswalk).
  - Must yield to pedestrians when entering or exiting an alleyway, building or driveway.
- \*\*Regardless of right-of-way, drivers are required by law to take great care to avoid hitting pedestrians.\*\**



14,000 people are killed or injured every year while crossing the street.



## TIPS FOR SHARING THE ROAD

- **WATCH** for pedestrians near the roadway.
- **SLOW** or stop for pedestrians using crosswalks.
- **SLOW** or stop for pedestrians when turning right or left.
- **USE CARE** if another car slows/stops for a pedestrian.
- **LOOK FOR** pedestrians walking in the road without sidewalks.
- **FOLLOW** all signals, signs and stripes at crosswalks.
- **KNOW** that pedestrians with dark clothes are hard to see at night.
- **DON'T** speed or park where pedestrians use crosswalks.



# The Older Driver

According to the NYS Governor's Traffic Safety Committee, it is projected that by 2050, 1 out of 5 Americans will be over the age of 65.

This same trend is predicted to hold true among the driving population.

## Mandatory Testing- A Possible Solution?

It is found that the highest fatality rates are among BOTH the youngest and eldest driving population. Retesting the older population would not solve the entire problem.

Mandatory Testing is *NOT* implemented in NYS because:

1. Age alone is a poor predictor of driving ability.
2. It could be considered discriminatory.
3. It would be costly to retest such a large portion of the driving population.

([www.safeny.com](http://www.safeny.com))



Loss of driving privileges has significant social and psychological ramifications on the older driver. Unfortunately with old age comes changes in the body and mind and by no fault of their own, older drivers slowly begin to lose their driving abilities. The driver's license is a symbol of independence. When that is taken away the older driver is forced to rely on friends and family for mobility. However, if these physical and psychological changes are recognized in the elderly, adjustments in driving behavior such as only driving during the daylight hours can help the older driver keep their keys. Technological and engineering efforts can also be made to help seniors be safe on the roadways. Such efforts may include producing safer cars, posting larger roadway markings and traffic signs, having special lanes for left turns, improving traffic signaling such as left turn arrows and adjusting signal timings at traffic lights. (NYS Office for Aging)

**Vision:** Drivers need to see clearly on the road and as you age, glare becomes more and more of a problem:

- Wear sunglasses on bright days.
- Avoid driving at night or into the late sun.
- Schedule eye exams regularly to check for cataracts and other vision problems.

**Medications:** Can compromise your alertness while driving:

- Talk to your pharmacists about drug side effects.
- Always read the medication instructions.

### **Confidence & Driving Proficiency:**

All drivers need adequate "seat time" or time behind the wheel to perform well.

- *Use it or lose it!* Keep your judgement, skills & confidence alive.
- Driving Specialists (found in hospitals & driving schools) can help assess your driving skills & identify poor habits.

### **Your Vehicle:**

Check for-

- Inflated tires
- Good brakes
- Responsive steering
- Working signals
- Brake lights
- Working wipers

**Attitude:** Aggressive drivers?

- Show courtesy by pulling over & letting faster moving cars go by. This reduces tailgating & bumping.

### **Your Knowledge:**

- Attend an approved motor vehicle accident prevention class.  
-- AARP's "55 Alive/Mature Driving Program"  
-- Learn traffic laws, road signs & safe driving practices.

**NYS Office for the Aging**

1-800-342-9871 (hotline)

1-518-474-5731

**Broome County Office for the Aging**

607-778-2411

[www.broomeelderservices.org](http://www.broomeelderservices.org)

# Construction Safety.....

During the spring and summer months, our local roads, highways and byways are littered with construction. Driving through these work zones can be inconvenient and even dangerous. Keep yourself safe by following these few simple safety guidelines.



## And Remember....

- Speed limits apply even if there are no workers present!
- Fines for speeding are *doubled* in construction zones!!



## Tips for Safe Driving Through Construction Zones:

### 1. Follow the signs:

- Signs help keep motorists and crew workers stay safe.
- Signs give you information such as lane changes and speed reductions.

### 2. Be Alert:

- Be sure to pay attention to your surroundings.
- Continuously scan for rubberneck drivers, moving equipment, other vehicles and crew workers.
- Avoid distractions such as eating or talking on your cell phone.

### 3. Plan Ahead:

- Be sure to research construction zones before you travel and choose an alternate route if possible.
- Expect delays so give yourself enough time to arrive at your destination.
- Maintain an adequate fuel level to avoid running out of gas.
- Pack snacks to keep all passengers satisfied.

### 4. Remain Calm:

- Don't let speeding or impatient drivers affect your driving.
- Keeping cool will keep you safe.

### 5. Give Trucks Enough Room:

- Remember because of the length and weight of trucks, they need more room to stop or change lanes, especially in the narrow lanes construction zones often render.
- Give trucks twice the time and room to change lanes.

Will you be traveling in New York State?

Check these sites for construction areas and anticipated delays:

<http://www.nysthruway.gov/maps/index.html>

The NYS Department of Transportation website:

<https://www.nysdot.gov/portal/page/portal/regional-offices>

## Come to The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Megan Dunham Golf Tournament!

**When:** Saturday, August 11, 2007

**Where:** Belden Hill Golf Course  
Route 7, Harpursville, NY

**Time:** Registration begins at 8:00a.m.  
Tee off time is at 8:30a.m.



*All ages are welcome!*

Don't golf? Don't worry! Come for dinner and a basket raffle!

To purchase tickets contact:

Joel Dunham

772-1896

237-3337

[Teen1safedriving@yahoo.com](mailto:Teen1safedriving@yahoo.com)



*This tournament is held in memory of Megan Dunham who was killed in a motor vehicle crash. The funds raised will be used for scholarships in her name and to support efforts of a new teen educational program called T.A.D.D.*

For more information visit:

[SVSADDTADD.blogspot.com](http://SVSADDTADD.blogspot.com)

[www.freewebs.com/teen1safedriving/](http://www.freewebs.com/teen1safedriving/)



## Chris Thater Memorial Race

**When:** Saturday, August 25, 2007  
11a.m.-6p.m.

Sunday, August 26, 2007  
8a.m.-4p.m.

**Where:** Recreation Park,  
Binghamton, NY

*Dedicated to Chris Thater who was  
killed by a drunk driver.*

*One of America's premier cycling events.  
One of America's fastest 5K runs.*



## Bike Rodeo and Skills Clinic

**When:** Saturday, August 25, 2007

**Where:** Recreation Park

**Time:** 2:00p.m.-4:00p.m.

**Who:** All Kids, Ages 5 and up!

*Held in conjunction with the  
Chris Thater Memorial*

Bring your bike! Bring your helmet!  
Learn great riding skills!

**FREE BIKE HELMET TO THE  
FIRST 50 KIDS!**

Each entry receives:

- Certificate of Merit
- Free ticket to STOP-DWI  
Holiday Classic

Please contact Christine Muss at 778-2807 if  
you are interested in volunteering at the rodeo.

## Congratulations to our newly Certified Broome County Child Passenger Safety Technicians!

**Laurie Sorensen**

*Endicott Police Dept.*

**Alan Bennett**

*Broome County Sheriff's  
Dept.*

**Marc Ayers**

*Broome County Sheriff's  
Dept.*

**Michael Ripic**

*Endicott Fire Dept.*

**Scott White**

*Endicott Fire Dept.*

**Robin Mastrangelo**

*BC Dept. of Social Services*

**Edith Lianexay**

*BC Dept. of Social Services*

**Keri Coyne**

*BC Dept. of Social Services*

**Maria Caroll**

*Lourdes PACT*

**Jessica Hughes**

*Lourdes PACT*

**Lisa Rosa**

*Family Enrichment Network*



**Next Broome County  
Traffic Safety Board Meeting  
August 29, 2007  
Broome County Health Dept.  
4p.m.**

**Barbara J. Fiala, Broome County Executive**

Graphics and research provided by the NYS Governor's Traffic Safety Committee [www.safeny.com](http://www.safeny.com), the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, [www.nhtsa.gov](http://www.nhtsa.gov), the Federal Highway Administration, <http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/index.htm>, the New York State Office For the Aging and [www.carjunky.com](http://www.carjunky.com).

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