



BROOME COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY BOARD NEWSLETTER

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Speed Kills.

A look at "aggressive" driving.....

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There is no tangible explanation of what aggressive driving really is but most people know it when they see it. Some say it may be following too closely, running red lights and stop signs or even failure to yield the right of way. Others say it is the over use of the horn, hand gestures and yelling. Aggressive driving can also be defined as, "when individuals commit a combination of moving traffic offenses so as to endanger other persons or property." Speeding can be one of these offenses. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, speed is a factor in nearly one-third of all fatal crashes. It is one of the most prevalent factors contributing to traffic crashes. And it is because so few drivers view speeding as a risk to their safety or the safety of others. The fact is speeding does increase your risk for injury and even death. Drivers are unable to steer safely around curves or objects in the road if they are driving too fast. Not to mention speeding also extends the distance time required to stop a vehicle in an emergency situation. Still many drivers don't consider this. They will slow down in residential areas or in bad weather but otherwise feel that traveling a few miles an hour over the speed limit is not a big deal. Most think that receiving a speeding ticket is the worst that can happen. Unfortunately, these drivers are dead wrong. Over 42,000 people die as the result of traffic crashes each year on our nation's highways and hundreds of thousands are seriously injured. In 2005, **1,363** traffic crashes occurred in Broome County. 187 or 14% of these crashes happened because the driver was speeding which resulted in approximately 4 deaths and 156 injuries. **Speed shatters lives. Please slow down!**

Speed-Related Facts

- Crash severity increases with the speed of the vehicle at impact.
- The effectiveness of restraint devices such as air bags and seatbelts decline as impact speeds increase.
- Rural roads account for over 60% of all speed-related fatal crashes.
- On average, 1,000 Americans are killed every month in speed-related crashes.
- The probability of death, disfigurement or debilitating injury doubles for every 10mph over 50mph that a vehicle travels.
- Drivers involved in speed-related fatal crashes are more likely to have a history of traffic violations.

The driver penalty points are:

MPH over speed limit	Points
MPH over speed limit not indicated	3
1 - 10 mph	3
11 - 20 mph	4
21 - 30 mph	6
31 - 40 mph	8
More than 40 mph	11

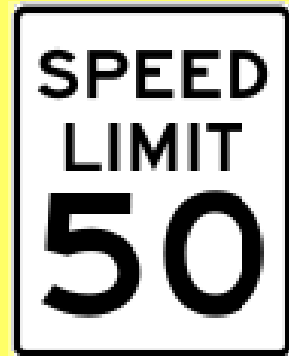


What are the fines and penalties for speeding?

For **non-commercial vehicles**, the fines and possible prison sentences are:

Speed	Minimum fine	Maximum fine	Possible prison time
up to 10 mph over	\$90	\$150	not more than 15 days
more than 10 mph over - less than 30 mph over	\$180	\$300	not more than 15 days
more than 30 mph over	\$360	\$600	not more than 30 days
inappropriate speed	\$45	\$150	not more than 15 days

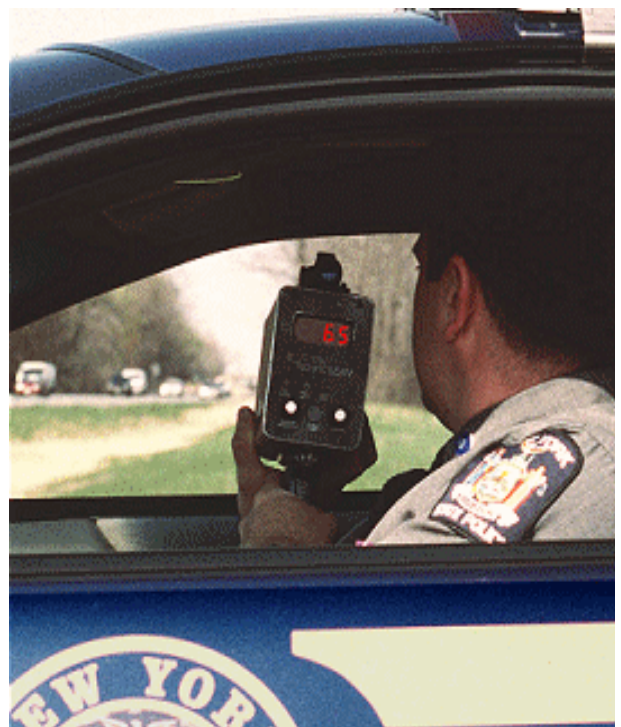
Fines increase if you are convicted of more than one speed violation in 18 months. License is revoked for 3 convictions in 18 months. Fines may vary for speeding in school zone or restricted highway. Fines are doubled in work zones.



Speeding and Enforcement?

According to the New York State Governor's Traffic Safety Committee, the New York State Police and many Sheriff's and municipal police departments conduct speed enforcement as part of their daily, routine patrols. Whether an officer is enforcing a 20 mph school zone limit, or the 65 mph limit on an interstate it is done with safety in mind. Each month, the State Police conduct special speed enforcement details in every Troop. The New York City Police Department conducts special speed enforcement as part of their Combat Aggressive driving program. Over 200 Sheriff's departments and municipal agencies participate in the Selective Traffic Enforcement Program which targets speeding as well as other unsafe violations.

Broome County is one of the many counties in New York State whose police agencies are involved in this program. Last year, approximately 1,089 tickets were written in our area for just speeding as a part of the Selective Traffic Enforcement Program. Broome County police agencies will continue to be active participants in such enforcement programs throughout 2007 and 2008 in order to combat speeding and other aggressive driving behaviors.



“Put a Lid on a Kid” Campaign!



During April and May of 2007, the Broome County Traffic Safety Board in partnership with Woodrow Wilson Elementary School conducted a bicycle helmet drive in honor of Bike Month. The goal of the drive was to encourage local organizations and community residents to donate new bicycle helmets towards a local area elementary school in need of helmets. Over 300 helmets were donated and distributed to the students of Woodrow Wilson. Following this massive helmet distribution, an assembly was held and Christine Muss, Broome County Traffic Safety Coordinator, conducted a presentation discussing basic bicycle safety and proper helmet fitting.

A special thanks to Tioga Velo Club and the Broome County Traffic Safety Program for their generous donations of helmets!

Photographs to the right display Dora Hill, Woodrow Wilson's librarian and coordinator of the helmet drive passing off a bag of helmets to Heather Pepper, a 3rd grade teacher. Mrs. Pepper distributed the helmets to her students following the bicycle safety assembly.



Upcoming Events

Binghamton River Crawl “Safe Fun on the Waterways”

Day: Friday, June 15th, 2007

Time: 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Location: Future Martin Luther King, Jr. promenade behind Boscov's

Activities:

- Enjoy the scenic beauty.
- Be healthful.
- Meet a few new friends.
- Learn about our wonderful natural assets and waterfront activity.
- Join us in our **BIKE RODEO** and learn important bicycling skills! Participating children must bring their own bicycle, an approved helmet and a parent.

Education and Baseball Day at the Binghamton Mets!

Day: Thursday, June 14th, 2007

Time: 10:30 a.m.

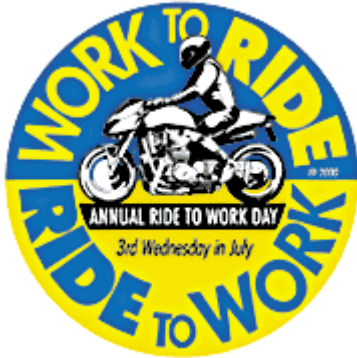
Location: NYSEG Stadium

Activities:

- Come and bring your kids to enjoy not only a little baseball but some education too!
- Learn about bike safety, pedestrian safety and upcoming summer events!
- Play a game and win a prize!!

July 18th 2007

Ride Your Motorcycle to Work Day!



July 18th, 2007 marks the
16th Annual Ride Your Motorcycle to Work Day!
Motorcyclists all around our country and even around the world will be participating in this event to demonstrate:

- The number of motorcyclists to the general public and to politicians.
- That motorcyclists are from all occupations and all walks of life.
- That motorcyclists can reduce traffic and parking congestion in large cities.
- That motorcycles are for transportation as well as recreation.
- That motorcycling is a social good.

Remember safety is still important so bikers please obey all traffic laws, signal where appropriate, avoid tailgating and always wear a helmet and protective gear! And drivers don't forget to be aware of motorcyclists and make scanning for them a habit!
So all you motorcyclists out there in Broome County- take a ride on July 18th.

Broome County Traffic Safety Board Announcements

June 12th-14th, 2007

Buffalo, New York

6th Annual Regional Child Passenger Safety Conference

June 14th, 2007, 10:30 a.m.

Binghamton Mets Stadium

Education and Baseball Day

June 15th, 2007

May Wave Vouchers due to the Broome County Health Department

June 15th, 2007, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Future Martin Luther King, Jr., promenade behind Boscov's

Binghamton River Crawl & Bike Rodeo

June 25th-29th, 2007

Norwich, New York

Child Passenger Safety Technician Certification Course

July 18th, 2007

16th annual Ride Your Motorcycle to Work Day



Barbara J. Fiala, Broome County Executive

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www.safeny.com, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, www.nhtsa.gov,
and Ride to Work, www.ridetowork.org. The production of this newsletter was made possible through funding from the NYSGTSC.