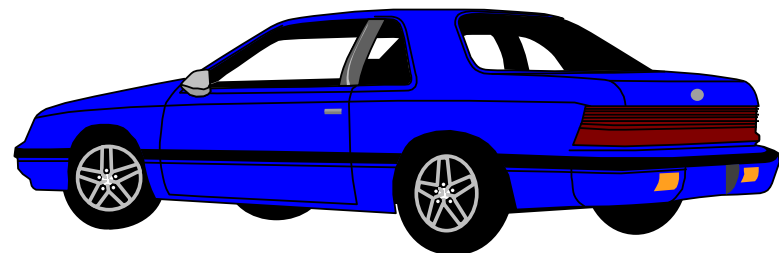
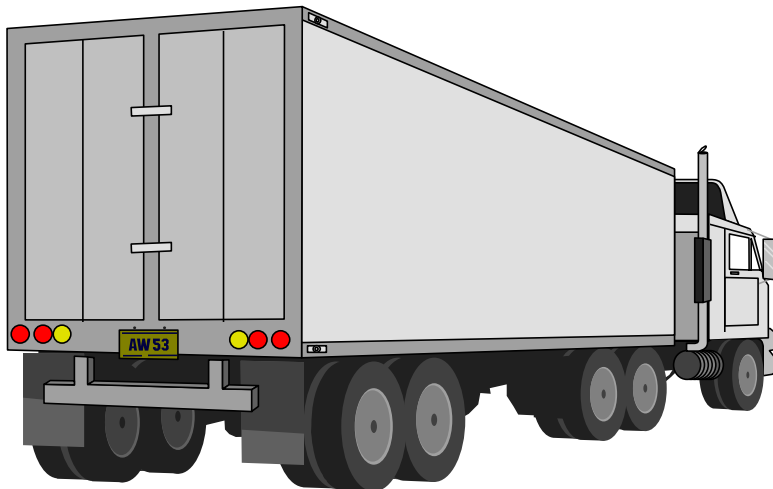


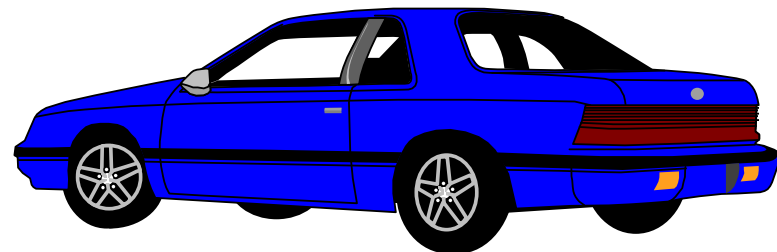
# Driving Safety



# Driving Safety

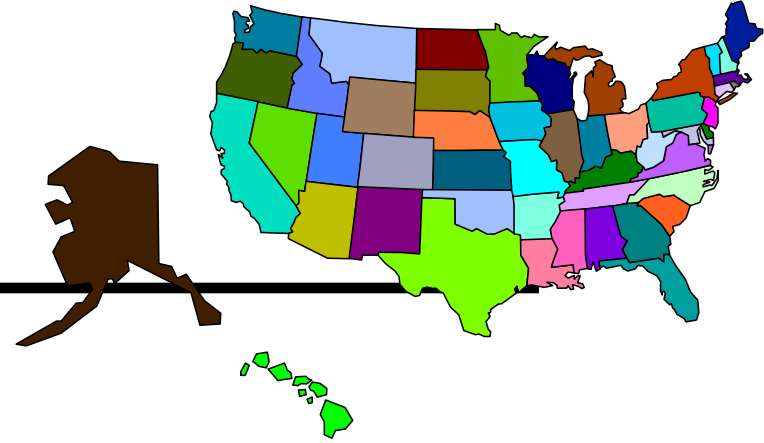
---

- u How safe are our roads?
- u Driving injuries-on or off the job
- u Unsafe acts behind the wheel
- u Driving under the influence
- u “Road rage”
- u Unsafe conditions
- u Vehicle safety features
- u Did you know?



# How safe are our roads?

---



- u 2005 data for the U.S.
  - 43,443 deaths
  - 5 deaths and 260 disabling injuries per hour
  - The # of deaths & # deaths/mile jumps in June, and peaks in August.
  - Saturday and Sunday (Midnight to 3 AM) have more fatal accidents than any other period.

# MISSISSIPPI

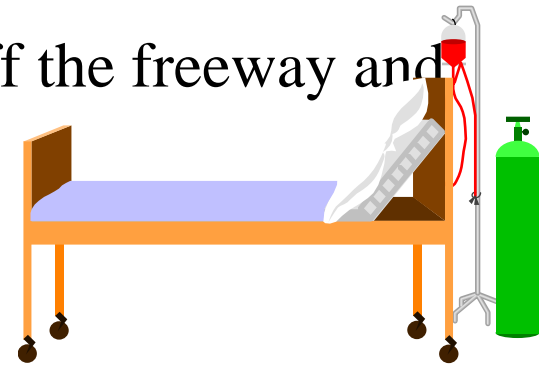
---

- u We are number 1 in fatalities while unrestrained (WEAR YOUR SEAT BELTS)
- u We are number 2, only behind Wyoming in our fatality rating by population.
- u 40% of the 931 fatalities in 2005 involved Alcohol

# Driving injuries - on or off the job

---

- u The most hazardous environment
  - For most of us, whether on or off the job, it is on the road.
  - We face it daily.
- u A recent report from another site:
  - A manager was beginning a business trip
  - Was driving from his house to the airport on the freeway
  - Was **shaving** and looking into the rearview mirror
  - Saw (in peripheral vision) something cut in front of him
  - Reacted by steering to the right, driving off the freeway and hitting a tree
  - Result was a broken hip

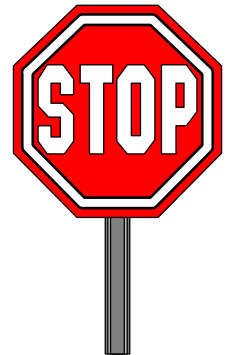


# Unsafe acts behind the wheel

---

- u Shaving
- u Putting on make-up
- u Reading a map
- u Reaching behind you to spank kids
- u Not using a seatbelt
- u Driving under the influence
- u Driving at an unsafe speed
- u Failing to stop or yield
- u Unsafe passing of another vehicle
- u Tailgating
- u Not using blinkers
- u Others?

*\*Though perhaps in a different category, eating when driving and using cell phones can compromise your response time by distracting you and by removing one hand from the steering wheel.*



# Driving under the influence (DUI)

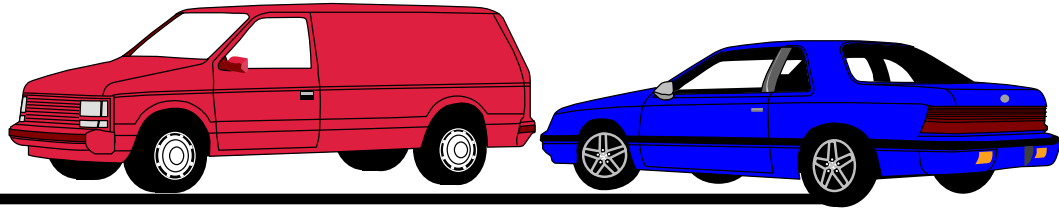
---



- u Alcohol was involved in 40% of all traffic fatalities in Mississippi for 2005.
- u Sobering facts:
  - About 2 in every 5 Americans will be involved in an alcohol-related traffic accident at some time in their lives
  - Remember the one-one rule: one drink per hour (Your body takes about an hour to rid itself of each 1/2 ounce of alcohol)
- u Progress in this arena:
  - A social stigma has been building against drinking & driving
  - Many social drinkers are being more responsible

# “Road rage”

---



- u Road rage is driving under the influence of too much anger.
- u Provoked by:
  - Feeling endangered by someone else’s driving (another driver cuts you off or tailgates you).
  - Resentment at being forced to slow down
  - Righteous indignation at someone who breaks traffic rules
  - Anger at someone taking out their road rage on you
- u Therapy for road rage:
  - Take a deep breath and just let it go!



# Unsafe conditions

---

- u Poor visibility

- Night time driving (Fatality rates/mile are 4 times higher at night.)
- Dust storms
- Rain storms
- Windshield wipers not effective

- u Poor road conditions

- Slippery surfaces from weather
- Road not properly maintained

- u Improper vehicle maintenance

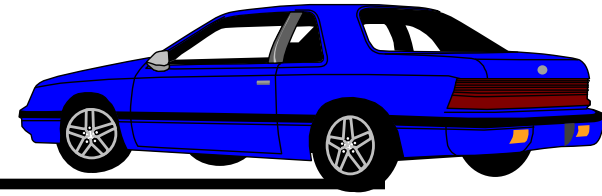
- Inadequate brakes
- Worn tread on tires
- Hoses, belts
- Inadequate acceleration
- Headlight(s) out

- u Other?



# Vehicle safety features

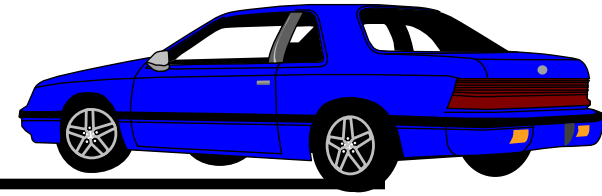
---



- u Daytime running lights
  - (Headlights that are on whenever vehicle is running)
- u Lap/shoulder safety belts
  - Reduce risk of moderate-to-fatal injuries by approximately 50%.
- u Air bags for driver & passenger
  - Combined with lap/shoulder belts, they reduce risk of fatality by another 10%.
- u Side impact airbags
- u Ability to disengage airbags
- u Child safety seats
  - Note: Children in child seats should not be placed in the front seat of cars
- u Anti-lock brakes
- u Safety cages built into the vehicle framework
- u If buying a new car, ask about side-impact collision data.
- u Other?

# Did you know?

---



- u When driving on a road that is new to you:
  - You eyes tend to scan the road from left to right which is an excellent driving habit.
  - We tend not to scan when in familiar territory.
- u How closely can you safely follow another car?
  - We tend to follow based on how much of the road we can see
    - » A long hood causes us to follow at a greater distance (since you have to look over the hood to see the street).
    - » Drivers with shorter hoods tend to follow more closely
  - Use the 2 or 4 second rule
    - » Good driving conditions, keep a 2 second distance behind
    - » Poor driving conditions, keep a 4 second distance behind