

October 7-13 Drive Safely to Work Week



Of course you should drive to work safely everyday, but the Network of Employers for Traffic Safety (NETS) has declared this week to be Drive Safely to Work Week. The purpose is to get people to focus on one of the most dangerous things they do every day: Drive a car.

Because driving is something that we do every day, many of us take our driving skills for granted. Most drivers claim that they are good drivers, but it just cannot be true. With 6 million crashes that resulted in 42,642 fatalities and just under 2.6 million people injured in the United States last year, not everyone behind the wheel is a good driver.

Every day thousands of drivers make the decision to multi-task, speed, tailgate, run red lights and take their aggression out on other drivers, putting themselves and other sharing the road at risk. One out of nine licensed drivers will have a crash this year. From a study at Virginia Tech here are some things that increase your odds of getting into a crash:

- The odds of being involved in a crash or near crash are double when drivers are inattentive and look away from the roadway for 2 seconds or longer.
- The odds of being involved in a crash or near crash are almost tripled when driving significantly faster than surrounding traffic.
- The odds of being involved in a crash or near crash are double when driving aggressively.
- The odds of being involved in a crash or near crash are almost tripled when driving drowsy.

While there are few things that drivers can control on the roadways to make their drive time shorter and easier, the one thing that every driver can control is their own driving. Improving our driving behaviors and making safer decisions on the road won't make traffic congestion disappear, but it certainly will cause fewer crashes, save lives, and in the long run—your time.

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