TDS KNOW THE FACTS SHEET

Driving at Night

* 58% of fatal teen crashes occur between 6pm-6am.
* Dusk is the most dangerous time to drive because your eyes are constantly having to adjust to the decrease of sunlight.
* Reduce speed and increase following distances
* Turn on headlights at dusk
* If an oncoming vehicle’s lights are too high, avoid glare by watching the right edge of the road and use it as a steering guide.
* If you are: having trouble focusing, blinking frequently, have heavy eyelids, feeling irritable or yawning repeatedly—DO NOT DRIVE.
* Being awake for 18 hours is similar to having a blood alcohol concentration of .05.

Speeding and Street Racing

* 33% of young driver and passenger deaths occur in speed-related crashes.
* In a high-speed crash, the passengers’ side of the vehicle cannot maintain the passenger compartment.
* Seat belts cannot keep the forces on occupants below severe injury levels from a speeding accident.
* The faster you drive, the longer distance you need between you and the car ahead of you.
* Braking distance increases with increased speed.
* Speeding to keep up with the flow of traffic is not legal and you will receive a ticket.
* Use the two-second rule as a safe distance between you and the car ahead of you.

Distractions

* What is a distraction? Anything that takes your mind and attention away from driving.
* The three main types of distractions are: visual, manual and cognitive.
* 55% of teens reported in a survey by Liberty Mutual and SADD (Students against Destructive Decisions) that they text while driving to update parents—don’t do it! Wait until you have parked somewhere.
* Drivers using hand-held devices are four times more likely to get into serious crashes.
* 10% of drivers under the age of 20 involved in fatal crashes were reported as distracted at the time of the crash.
* Friends can distract you while driving too. Watch that video, read that funny text or talk once you have arrived at your destination.

Seat Belts

* Safety belt use continues to be lowest with 16- to -24 year-olds.
* On average, 2 out of 5 every teenager involved in a fatal car crash was not wearing a seat belt.
* Drivers between the ages of 18-19 years old had the highest percentage of unbelted passengers involved in fatal crashes.
* You will be ticketed if you are not wearing a seat belt- even if you’re in the backseat!
* A seat belt only keeps you safe if worn properly.
* Don’t drive off until every passenger is buckled up- their safety is your responsibility as a driver.

Driving Under The Influence

* Drivers between 16-20 are 17 times more likely to die in a crash when they have a blood alcohol content (BAC) of .08% compared to being completely sober.
* Most young drivers killed in alcohol-related crashes are the drivers and passengers.
* The Zero tolerance law states that an person under the age of 21 with any measurable amount of alcohol in their system will be: arrested, loss of their driver’s license and face many fees.
* First time offenders for DWI pay between $5,000 and $24,000.
* Even after one drink, find a sober, safe ride home. Driving after drinking is not worth the DWI, cost or death of you or someone else.