

Share the Drive Materials

Share the Drive is a community action program created for the first ever National Teen Driver Safety Week (NTDSW). Share the Drive's simple, practical tips and activities and knowledge can be used at any time to encourage action and help teens become safer drivers. These Share the Drive materials are based on the latest science and knowledge about the most common risk factors teens face.

Follow these five simple steps to make a difference through Share the Drive:

1. Know the facts about teen driving crashes and deaths
2. Reach people at the right time when they are ready to listen
3. Start small and build your information network— begin with friends, family, and neighbors
4. Keep your message simple and consistent
5. Make a difference by going beyond awareness—Act Now.

Good times to raise the topic include:

- **During National Teen Driver Safety Week (October 17 to 23, 2010)**
- **When a teen crash hits close to home**—Unfortunately it sometimes takes a tragedy to spur action.
- **When a group of parents or teens meet**—Make it a priority to mention safe driving in the conversation.
- **At community meetings or events**—talk about safe teen driving at Parent/Teacher Association (PTA), Home and School, religious group, and community group meetings, as well as at sporting events and school assemblies

Group Demonstrations

It only takes three seconds to recognize a hazard and act to avoid a deadly crash. During those 3 seconds drivers need to: (1) scan for and detect hazards; (2) process the need to respond; (3) decide on an action; (4) act to avoid the crash. New drivers take more time at each step than more experienced drivers. Distractions, such as cell phones and other passengers, chip away at these precious seconds. That's why inexperience and being distracted is such a deadly combination.

To help others better understand teen driving issues, consider using these three short demonstrations. They can be given at school assemblies, PTA or other community group meetings, or in your living room.

[Exercise #1: Can You Scan?](#)

[Exercise #2: Spilling Spells Trouble](#)

[Exercise #3: Is That Call Worth It?](#)

Age Group: High school teens, parents, adults

Number of Participants: The more the better

Time to Set Up: 1 hour

Time to Practice: 1 hour

Time to Execute: 20 minutes to 2 hours depending on the number of exercises

Key Message Example: "Is That Call Worth It?" illustrates how hard it is to do two things at one time

Resources/Preparation: Read about the science behind these actions on teendriversource.org

Materials: three flip charts, a flashlight, a paper cup filled with water, two different sized balls

Cost: \$3 to \$10

Be sure to practice these demonstrations before doing them in front of an audience. Store all the objects listed above in a cardboard box out of audience view.

Exercise #1: Can You Scan?

Prepare

Set the stage with the three flip charts in front of and facing a chair about 4 feet away – one to the right of the chair, one in front of the chair, and one to the left of the chair. Draw a long road from the bottom to the top of each flip chart. The road should be about 6 inches wide. Decorate the road with trees and a house. Draw a circle on the road to represent an approaching car.

Activity

Ask for two volunteers with cell phones and have them exchange numbers. Have volunteer 1 sit in the chair while volunteer 2 waits for further instruction. Hand volunteer 1 the flashlight and instruct her to turn on her cell phone, place it on the chair beside her, and answer it if anyone calls.

Explain that she is now in the driver's seat. Instruct her to shine the flashlight at each of the circles starting on the left, going to the center, and then to the right. Have her repeat the exercise until told to stop.

As volunteer 1 performs this activity, ask everyone to imagine that she is a driver scanning left, forward, and right to notice hazards and avoid crashes.

Then whisper to volunteer 2 to send a funny text to volunteer 1 (You may prepare the text beforehand).

Watch the flashlight go all over the place when volunteer 1 receives the text message and starts reading the joke. The more interesting the text, the more distracting it will be.

Discuss: What happened?

Where was the driver looking when she answered the cell phone?

Probably at the phone, not at the road

What happened to the light?

Probably went all over the road

What happened to the scanning?

Probably stopped because the driver was focused on one direction

Could something distract you while you are driving?

Exercise #2: Spilling Spells Trouble

Activity

Ask a teen or adult to join you in the front of the room. Give him a cup of water to hold in one hand. Show him a small ball and tell him you are going to ask him to catch it with the other hand.

Turn your back. Ask the volunteer if he is ready, count for three seconds, and then turn and throw a *large* ball. Remember, he is expecting it to be the same small ball you showed him.

Discuss: What happened?

Could something unexpected happen to you while you were driving?

If you do not get any responses from that initial question, discuss these points that are sure to get the audience talking:

- Never trust another driver.
- It is hard to do two things at once.
- It only took me 3 seconds to confuse you and cause an accident (spilling the water).

Exercise #3: Is That Call Worth It?

Prepare:

Set the stage with three flip charts in front of and facing a chair about 4 feet away – one to the right of the chair, one in front of the chair, and one to the left of the chair. Draw a long road from the bottom to the top of each flip chart. The road should be about 6 inches wide. Decorate the road with trees and a house. Draw a circle on the road to represent an approaching car.

Place a pencil and a napkin on a small table beside the volunteer. (Note that it will be hard to write on a paper napkin with a pencil.)

Activity:

Ask a teen with a cell phone to sit in the chair. Ask him for his cell phone number. Give him a flashlight.

Explain that he is now in the driver's seat. Instruct him to shine the flashlight at each of the circles starting on the left, going to the center, and then to the right. Have him repeat the exercise until told to stop.

Call the teen's cell phone. Tell him you have the number of where the party is going to be tonight, your battery is low, and he has to copy the number down quickly. Tell your volunteer to go to: "29947 Ironical Street, Bastion Heights - it's the third house from the corner on the left."

Discuss: What happened?

Could something like this happen to you while you were driving?

What would you tell your friend on the phone if you hit something?

What are possible solutions? It's hard to do two things at once.

Also ask the audience to remember a difficult cell phone conversation and to think about what would have happened if they had received it while driving. If no one gives any examples, ask them to consider these possible scenarios:

- your boyfriend/ girlfriend picked a fight with you
- your mother or father yelled at you
- your friend was telling you a really good story

Parent Activities

The best way parents can promote driving safety is to spend more time driving with their teens. Experience behind the wheel helps protect teens from mistakes, bad judgment, and crashes.

Share the Drive parent materials were created to be distributed at events and through networks geared to parents of teens. These activities support a crucial message: *Parents are key to teens' success in learning to drive safely.*

Share the Drive parent party

A Parent Party brings parents together to build a network with a goal of helping their teens drive safe using the Share the Ride strategy. Like all Share the Drive activities, this can be used year-round.

A **Start Something Parent Party** can be organized by a parent but can be adapted for use by educators or community organizers.

Teens know that they need to depend on their parents to learn how to drive, but they don't always make it easy to teach them. Parents working together and supporting each other will make it easier for them and their teens to be successful.

Prepare for the Parent Party:

Age Group: Parents of teens who have, or will soon have a learner's permit

Setting: Someone's house

Number of Participants: 5 to 8 parents

Time to Prepare: 1 week

Time to Execute: 1 to 2 hours

Materials: Make copies of parenting fact sheets found on "I Am A Parent" section of teendriversource.org

Cost: Refreshments at the host house.

Resources to read before party: information on the science at teendriversource.org

Parent Party Details

Hold a **Share the Drive Parent Party** to create a parent support network that focuses on Share the Drive principles and ideas. Use Share the Drive to initially motivate parents to share skills and experience and to monitor their teens' driving.

The parent hosting the meeting will get the discussion started and follow up with parents after the meeting. When inviting parents to the party, encourage them to read about the issue first by visiting

www.teendriversource.org. The parent hosting the meeting should also distribute copies of Share the Drive materials at the meeting to all attendees.

Introduction from host (10 minutes)

Teens value their parents' opinion and want help, despite what we think or what they say. New research about teens highlights the importance of parental involvement in the driving experience. Take a look at CHOP research findings from the National Young Driver Survey described in the report [Driving Through the Eyes of Teens, A Closer Look](http://www.teendriversource.org) at www.teendriversource.org.

Many parents may think because their teens are good students, do not drink, or get into trouble that they are in the clear. Not so. The leading causes for teens crashing are inexperience, distractions, and speeding. Not buckling up also can make injuries more severe and a greater number of fatalities if a crash does occur.

Distractions are not cell phones or playing loud music in the car. At the party talk about what else could be distracting teens behind the wheel.

Discuss: What surprised you?

How can this group utilize Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) laws to support their efforts to monitor and protect their children?

Make a plan (30 minutes)

Suggest a **Start Something Parents Group** to bring parents of teens who are friends into a telephone, web, or personal meeting-based network:

- Will it work?
- What should we focus on?
- How can we keep in touch with each other?

Hand out a commitment form that gives the name, address, telephone, and email address of parents who agreed to participate (**7 minutes**)

Follow up 3 days later with these parents to confirm the next steps (**15 minutes**)