



ASK THE LIBRARY ARCHIVE

Safety on the Road

library@nsc.org or 630-775-2199

2011

I've heard that 7 out of 10 children are not properly buckled up in the car. When transporting small children in my vehicle what do I need to know about the correct positioning of car seats?

September 18-24, 2011 is Child Passenger Safety Week and National Seat Check Saturday. The [National Highway Traffic Safety Administration](#) has general information, videos to watch, and a child seat check **locator** available on their web site. The [Healthy Children](#) organization also offers tips for families, plus a list of car safety seats and safety seat manufacturers.

Can I still drive safely if I'm taking medications?

According to the [Food & Drug Administration](#) most medications don't affect driving ability, but some prescription and over-the-counter medicines **can** cause reactions that might make it unsafe to drive, especially if medications are combined. The [National Highway Traffic Safety Administration](#) offers guidance for older drivers on the possible impact of medications and driving. They provide links to transportation alternatives and to finding out about medication interactions. For more on this topic, please contact the NSC Library at 630-775-2199 or library@nsc.org

I'm thinking of buying a motorized scooter to get around town. What concerns or safety tips can you offer?

The Motorcycle Safety Foundation has safe riding tips for scooters <http://msf-usa.org/downloads/Scooter-tips-2005.pdf> Laws governing motorized scooters vary by state for helmet requirements, age of operator, where you can ride, etc. so you should first check your state's laws for compliance http://www.motorscooters.com/scooter_laws.html

I know that trucks have blind spots, but what should I beware of when driving on the highway?

Trucks have large blind spots on both sides and often cannot see you. The [Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration](#) offers "share the road" information and "no zone" awareness when driving near trucks or large buses on the road. [Road Safe America](#) also offers tips.

We often need to haul cargo. How do we safely protect against shifting and falling materials?

The [Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration](#) provides cargo securement rules as well as a [handbook](#) for drivers. For additional information please contact the Library with your fax number or email address to library@nsc.org or by phoning 630-775-2199.

2010

During the fall season, deer and other wildlife often cross our paths. What should I keep in mind while driving in an area of active wildlife?

The [Highway Safety Research Center](#) has some tips on avoiding crashes with deer. Another perspective is offered by the [Defenders of Wildlife](#)

2009

Melting snow and springtime rain can result in flooded roadways. What should I know to minimize my risk while driving?

An [NSC](#) fact sheet discusses the types of floods that occur in different parts of the country and offers links to additional information. Avoid flooded areas if at all possible, but the U.S. [Army](#) has suggestions on what to do if you absolutely have no alternative but to drive through standing water.

With warmer weather approaching more motorcyclists are taking to the road. What should we know in order to prevent traffic accidents?

According to *Injury Facts*, the mileage death rate for motorcyclists was 35 times greater than for passenger cars and light trucks in 2006. The [Motorcycle Safety Foundation](#) has information on courses and other tips for motorcyclists. The [National Highway Traffic Safety Administration](#) has tips on sharing the road with motorcycles.

2008

More and more of my co-workers are bicycling to work. Do you have tips for being a safe cyclist?

The [NSC](#) has a fact sheet on safe cycling. The [League of American Bicyclists](#) offers a primer for safe bike commuting covering topics such as sharing the road, selecting equipment and bicycle maintenance.

Winter is upon us. What tips can I use to better prepare for driving during this season?

If your car is not ready for driving in the winter you could have a real problem on your hands. Winter driving tips can be found at the [NSC](#) website as well as the [National Highway Traffic Safety Administration](#).

2007

How can I be sure that I have installed my child's safety seat correctly?

The [American Academy of Pediatrics](#) produces a Car Safety Seat Guide for Parents which addresses selecting the right seat for your child and placing it in your car properly. A locator tool from the [National Highway Traffic Safety Administration](#) can help you find the child safety seat inspection site nearest you.

Does changing to and from daylight saving time have any effect on traffic crashes?

Interestingly, the results of studies are mixed. Some have found little difference in crashes despite concerns about drivers losing an hour of sleep in spring or driving in the dark in fall. Other studies estimate that lives could be saved by using daylight saving time year-round. For copies of selected studies, please contact the Library at library@nsc.org or 630-775-2199 with your fax number.

How do I determine if a traffic accident was preventable or not?

A Traffic Accident Review Committee can help answer this question objectively. The Library frequently receives this question and recommends the NSC publication "A Guide to Determine Motor Vehicle Accident Preventability." This guide helps establish a comprehensive accident review process for the purpose of accident prevention, driver training and recognition. Another source of help is the chapter on accident review committees in the NSC's Motor Fleet Safety Manual (4th edition).

How do I safely tow my boat or camper?

Whether you are towing a camper, boat or another type of trailer, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has a booklet that offers guidelines on selecting