

START SMART...

*The keys to safe
teen driving*



17 Going the Distance: BE RESPONSIBLE ON AND OFF THE ROAD!

What makes someone a responsible driver?

- Obeying all traffic laws and signs, including speed limits.
- Never driving after *any* amount of alcohol or other drug use.
- Always wearing seat belts properly and requiring all passengers to be properly belted too.
- Never driving aggressively, such as tailgating or cutting others off.
- Avoiding distracting activities while driving, such as playing around with passengers, adjusting the radio, or talking on a cell phone.
- Never driving when overly tired, angry, or upset.
- For teens, following all family rules related to driving.
- For teens, always “checking in” with a parent before driving—clearing where you’re going, who the passengers will be, and when you’ll return.
- Calling home if you’ll be late or if plans change.

Parents’ comments on responsible driving...

“My son realizes he has to clear every trip with his mother or me. It gives us peace of mind. Besides, when we know he’ll be out, we can have him do some errands that we need to have done.”—Emilio F.

“Alicia has a tendency to drive too fast, come too close to other cars, and show her impatience with other drivers. We’ve discussed it a lot, and she understands how risky it is and how much it may upset other drivers. She’ll do better—especially because she knows that I will take away her driving privileges for irresponsible behavior that puts her and others in danger.”—Marvin G.

“My son and I have talked a lot about being a responsible driver. He knows what I expect of him and what will happen if he doesn’t do it. It’s better when things are crystal clear from the beginning.”—Jody M.

Make it a rule that you must be a responsible driver!

DID YOU KNOW?

Irresponsible driving is a bad idea...

- ✓ You can get tickets.
- ✓ Your car insurance rates can go up.
- ✓ You can lose your license or driving privileges.

Irresponsible driving is dangerous...

- ✓ You unnecessarily increase risk of crash.
- ✓ You put yourself and others in danger.
- ✓ You may kill or seriously injure yourself, your passengers, pedestrians, bicyclists, or those in other cars.

AAA recommends increasing privileges in steps, or “Checkpoints”

UNSUPERVISED DRIVING PRIVILEGES				
WEATHER	CHECKPOINT 1	CHECKPOINT 2	CHECKPOINT 3	CHECKPOINT 4
Daytime	Dry	Dry, light rain	Moderate	Most
Nighttime		Dry	Dry, light rain	Moderate
RECOMMENDED TIME IN EFFECT	FIRST 1-3 MONTHS AFTER LICENSURE	NEXT 1-3 MONTHS	NEXT 3-6 MONTHS	NEXT 3-6 MONTHS

When teens are first licensed, parents and teens should continue practice driving together and set strict limits on adverse weather conditions. Then, as teens gain experience and demonstrate greater competence and responsibility, gradually increase privileges. It makes the limits on unsupervised driving easier for everybody to understand and manage when you review performance and adjust limits in regular steps, or “Checkpoints.”



SET PRIVILEGES AND RULES FOR ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS!

As a Family, You Can Help Reduce Teen Driving Risk by Doing the Following:

1 Talk about the dangers related to driving in adverse weather conditions (*see front page*).

2 Decide the following for unsupervised teen driving when first licensed:

- Weather privilege (*recommended: dry weather only*): _____
- Exceptions (*recommended: school or work only*): _____
- Length of time this driving privilege will be in effect (*recommended: 1-3 months*): _____

3 Set the following rules related to unsupervised teen driving in adverse weather:

- Do not put yourself or others at increased risk by making unnecessary trips in adverse weather.
- Check in with a parent every time you drive. Tell parent where you are going, who will be the passengers, and when you will return.
- Call home if you cannot get home safely. Parent will arrange a safe ride home.
- Other: _____

4 Set possible consequences for breaking driving rules, for example:

- Teen drove to a friend's house in heavy rain without permission.
 - Lose driving privileges for _____ days/weeks/months.
 - Other: _____

5 When the first “Checkpoint” period is up, plan to increase the unsupervised weather driving privilege if teen:

- Follows driving rules and privileges related to adverse weather.
- Advances in driving skills and judgment.
- Rarely loses driving privileges.