

**West Traffic Division
Captain's Message
JUNE 2015**

SUMMER DRIVING TIPS

June is typically the start of the summer vacation season. And, as warmer weather approaches, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) urges drivers to take the proper precautions before and while driving on the roadway.

During the summer months, there is usually an increase in the number of vehicles on the nation's roadways. Families take to the highways for vacations and extended road trips. And while these excursions can start off as a happy occasion, they can too often result in tragedy due to negligence and failure to properly execute the necessary steps to ensure safe travel. According to NHTSA data in 2012, there were 377 crash related fatalities during the Memorial Day holiday period.

Consumers should remember prevention and planning is much easier than dealing with the consequences of a breakdown, or worse yet, a highway crash. To help avoid fatalities on our roadways, the agency has developed a list of tips that consumers can use for safe travel while driving:

- **Buckle Up. Every Trip. Every Time.** – Everybody aboard must agree to wear their seatbelts every time they are riding or driving in your vehicle. Wearing a seatbelt is also the best defense against a drunk-driving related crash. For more information on seatbelt safety, please visit www.nhtsa.gov and search for “Click It or Ticket” or “Press Releases” or [click here](#).
- **Don't Drive After Drinking** – Drunk driving deaths spike during the holidays. Every 51 minutes, someone in the United States dies in an alcohol-impaired-driving crash. Be responsible – don't drink and drive. If you plan to drink, choose a sober designated driver before going out. For more information on NHTSA Drunk Driving prevention efforts go to <http://www.nhtsa.gov/Impaired> .
- **Check your Tire's Air Pressure, Tread Wear, and Spare** – NHTSA recently launched its [TireWise](#) campaign to provide consumers and retailers with essential information about choosing and caring for tires. Proper tire maintenance is especially important if traveling by 15-Passenger Van. Please go to <http://www.safercar.gov/Vehicle+Shoppers/Passenger+Van+Safety> for additional information on 15-Passenger Van safety.
- **Keep Children Safe In and Around Your Vehicle** – Make sure car seats and booster seats are properly installed and that any children riding with you are in the car seat or booster seat best suited to protect them. There are other dangers to children in and around cars that you should know. One of those dangers is hyperthermia, or heat stroke, from being left unattended in a hot vehicle. Visit <http://www.safercar.gov/parents/index.htm> find out more about how to keep children safe while in and around your vehicle.

Throughout this summer and the rest of the year, drivers should utilize the above suggestions to stay safe on our nation's roads. Additional safety tips for drivers can be accessed through SaferCar.gov at <http://www.safercar.gov/summerdrivingtips> .

National Ride to Work Day is June 15

More information encouraging the use of motorcycles and scooters for transportation can be viewed at www.RideToWork.org .

The above information was excerpted from www.NHTSA.gov

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The combined enforcement efforts of all West Traffic Division (WTD) officers serve to both educate the public and decrease the number of tragic collisions that could have occurred.

Community Traffic Services Unit (CTSU) is one of the specialized units operating as a part of West Traffic Division that works to resolve particular community concerns. If you have traffic safety concerns in a particular area, you may contact CTSU at (213) 473-0215 or West Traffic Division at (213) 473-0222 to voice your concerns. They also have certified officers that can assist you with proper installation of a child safety seat. Please call the CTSU office at (213) 473-0215 to schedule an appointment. Please see CTSU's Web Page under "About West Traffic" listed under the West Traffic Division Newsletter Web Page.

The areas within Operations-West Bureau and West Traffic Division are Hollywood, Wilshire, West Los Angeles, Pacific, and Olympic Areas. Any of the geographical areas' WebPages can be accessed via LAPDOnline at www.lapdonline.org/west_bureau . Please check the Crime Prevention Circular for the areas that are of particular interest to you.

Captain Edward A. Pape

Commanding Officer

West Traffic Division

Traffic Tips

- * **ALWAYS wear your seatbelt and be sure your passengers, especially children, are properly secured.**
- * **Don't drink and drive.**
- * **Don't text and drive.**
- * **Look both ways TWICE before crossing the street.**
- * **Please slow down. Speed kills.**
- * **Pull over safely to the side of the road if you need to use your cell phone, mp3, or GPS.**