

**West Traffic Division
Captain's Message**

JUNE 2020

June is typically the start of the summer vacation season. 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 implement the necessary steps to ensure safe travel. Following are a few upcoming safety-related events.

- * **Secure Your Load Day** is scheduled for June 6 per Legislative Counsel. This special date was originally initiated and sponsored by Robin Abel after her daughter sustained extreme severe and permanent injury due to another vehicle's unsecured load.

According to an American Automobile Association Foundation for Traffic Safety (AAA FTS) study, over 200,000 collisions that occurred within a recent four-year period were caused by road debris. This resulted in 500 reported deaths and approximately 39,000 reported injuries between 2011 and 2014. Up to \$11.5 BILLION is spent on litter yearly, and unsecured loads make up approximately 20 to 40 percent of this litter. Information can be found at www.secureyourload.com.

- * **National Ride to Work Day** is June 15. The Primary Message is: *Share the Road With Motorcyclists and Scooter Riders*. Additional information on the use of motorcycles and scooters for transportation can be viewed at www.RideToWork.org.

- * **100 Deadliest Days of Summer** begins June 1 and ends August 31. According to an AAA FTS study, teens age 16-17 are three times more likely than adults to be involved in a fatal collision during this time.

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. 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.** – Everyone on board 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*.”
- **Don't Drive After Drinking** – Drunk driving deaths spike during the holidays. On the average, 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 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.

Please remember to check your vehicle's tires to ensure that they are safe for travel throughout the summer. For your safety and the safety of your loved ones, replace any overly worn or unsafe tires prior to driving your vehicle. At a minimum, monthly inspections should be completed and a tire professional can inspect your tires to help ensure that not only are they safe for travel, but that they will give you the best service, including increased miles per gallon.

- **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>.

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. Our officers will be assigned to special details in support of the NHTSA special events.

Portions of the previous information were excerpted, in part, from www.NHTSA.gov

Community Traffic Services Unit (CTSU) is one of the specialized units operating as a part of WTD 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) 473-0543 to schedule an appointment. Please see CTSU's Web Page under "About West Traffic" listed under the WTD 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. Please check the Crime Prevention Circular for the areas that are of particular interest to you.

Captain Brian Wendling
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.**
- * **Pull over safely to the side or off of the road if you need to use your electronic devices such as cell phone, mp3, or GPS.**
- * **Please slow down. Speed kills.**