

# Fatal Crashes Spike in Delaware



**Delaware**— The Delaware State Police have seen a recent spike in fatal crashes across the entire state. In conjunction with the Delaware Office of Highways Safety, we are working together to provide our citizens with a few traffic safety reminders.

The majority of fatal crashes are attributed to some form of distracted driving. This involves the driver failing to provide the proper time and attention to the roadway and to the task of driving. Other high-risk behaviors of motorists include impaired driving, speeding, unsafe driving behaviors including the use of electronic devices and the failure of motorists and passengers alike to wear seat belts.

## **Traffic Safety Tips:**

**Limit distractions:** Using your cell phone, texting, and fiddling with the radio or GPS should all be done when you are at a complete stop or avoided altogether. Give 100% of your attention to the road.

**Walk Smart:** Distracted walking, wearing dark clothing, and walking under the influence are common factors in pedestrian crashes in Delaware. Wear bright clothing, carry a flashlight, keep your head up and keep your eyes on the road and surrounding areas. Catch a cab or rideshare lift, or have a designated driver take you home. Walking under impairment is never worth the risk.

**Slow Down:** Reducing speeds and/or maintaining safer speeds.

Avoid the fast lane if possible. If you are in the center or far-right lanes, you are more able to maneuver away from a potentially dangerous situation than if you are in the fast lane.

**Be Attentive:** Never just assume that a driver is going to stop or turn. It's better to assume they may not! For example, when going through a red light, still look both ways to check if anyone is going to run the light. Not only do drunk drivers often run red lights, but so do distracted drivers.

**Driving Under the Influence:** Whether it be driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs, impaired driving is a crime. Before drinking, please designate a sober driver and give that person your keys. If you're impaired, use a taxi, call a sober friend or family member, or use public transportation so you are sure to get home safely.

**Wear Your Seatbelt:** One of the safest choices drivers and passengers can make is to buckle up. Understand the potentially fatal consequences of not wearing a seat belt and learn what you can do to make sure you and your family are properly buckled up every time.

*"The Office of Highway Safety is currently running our pedestrian, occupant protection, and distracted driving campaigns and enforcements in every county. We want the public to be aware of actions they can take to protect themselves on Delaware roadways. October is Pedestrian Safety Month. Please walk bright and walk smartly by wearing bright clothes, carrying a flashlight, and being aware when crossing Delaware's busy roads," Cynthia Cavett, Marketing Specialist II and Public Information Officer, Delaware Office of Highway Safety.*



The risk of being involved in a crash is greatly reduced for anyone operating a motor vehicle by eliminating distractions, paying attention, obeying the speed limit, and not driving under the influence. The Delaware State Police issue these traffic safety reminders and wish you safe travels as you reach your destination.

If you or someone you know is a victim or witness of crime or have lost a loved one to a sudden death and are in need of assistance, the Delaware State Police Victim Services Unit/Delaware Victim Center is available to offer you support and resources 24 hours a day through a toll free hotline 1800 VICTIM-1. (1800 842-8461). You may also email the unit Director at [debra.reed@state.de.us](mailto:debra.reed@state.de.us).

**You can follow the Delaware State Police by clicking on:**

[Delaware State Police Official Web Site](#)

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

[Nextdoor](#)

**Please tell us how we're doing via our [Citizen Satisfaction Survey](#).**

*Presented by Public Information Officer, Master Corporal  
Melissa Jaffe*

Released: 101819 1818

-End-