

Electra Theodorides-Bustle
Executive Director

2900 Apalachee Parkway
Tallahassee, Florida 32300-0500
www.flhsmv.gov



Charlie Crist
Governor

Bill McCollum
Attorney General

Alex Sink
Chief Financial Officer

Charles Bronson
Commissioner of Agriculture

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CONTACT: ANN NUCATOLA
(850) 617-3102

TEEN DRIVING WEB SITE NOW HAS KEY INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

~ Improved Web site assists parents when their teens take the wheel ~

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – The Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles launched a parents section on its teen driving website at www.flhsmv.gov/teens. The new and improved website now provides parents with useful information to help them teach their teens to become safe drivers.

Florida's graduated driver licensing program allows teens to obtain a learner's permit at age 15, which restricts them to driving only under certain conditions with a licensed adult. Other restrictions apply to teens with an operator's license until their 18th birthday. To ensure that both parents and teens have a complete understanding of the law, an explanation of each phase of the graduated licensing program and the related restrictions can be found on the website.

"Traffic crashes are the number one cause of death for youth in our nation, claiming thousands of lives each year," said DHSMV Executive Director Electra Theodorides-Bustle. "Many crashes are caused by avoidable behavior, and we know parents want to do all that they can to keep their young drivers safe. The information on this website will help parents and teens develop those good driving habits."

Certain behaviors are associated with the cause of the high fatality rate of teen drivers including: inexperience and immaturity combined with speed, alcohol consumption, not wearing seatbelts, distractions, drowsiness, and driving when visibility is limited. The website includes a driving guide and a driving log to track the 50 hours of practice that teens must record to obtain their intermediate operator's license.

"In 1996, Florida became the first state to enact a graduated driving law, but statistics show that too many teens do not adhere to restricted hours," said the Director of the Division of Driver Licenses Sandra Lambert. "Parents need to be informed of Florida's teen driving laws so they can ensure their teens comply with the law."

The Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles provides highway safety and security through excellence in service, education and enforcement. The Department is leading the way to a safer Florida through the efficient and professional execution of its core mission: the issuance of driver licenses, vehicle tags and titles and operation of the Florida Highway Patrol. To learn more about DHSMV and the services offered, visit www.flhsmv.gov.

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