

November 2014



"Breathing Life Into Safety"



RISK MANAGEMENT DIVISION

Safety and Loss Prevention Unit

Driving Safely at Thanksgiving

The Thanksgiving weekend signals the start of the 2014 holiday season and a flood of drivers heading down the Interstate for a family turkey feast. While it's not *the* busiest travel time of the year (5 to 10 days in summer get that honor), it can be one of the most dangerous. The National Safety Council reports that there are over 400 automobile fatalities and thousands of injuries nationwide each year during the long Thanksgiving weekend (defined as 11/26-12/1). Distraction, alcohol, inclement weather, icy roads and heavy traffic all combine to create hazardous conditions.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), in 2012, 416 motorists died during the highway

weekend. 60% of those killed were not wearing seatbelts, and of those fatalities 42% involved a Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) of 0.08 or greater. While you are getting your vehicle filled up with gas, now is a good time to do a quick check of the fluids under the hood. Nothing fancy, just make sure the reservoirs for each fluid are up to the mark with the correct fluid.

Since November may bring snowy or wet weather, while you are at it, check the tread on your tires. Not sure whether you have a safe amount of tread? Use the penny trick. Put Lincoln's head in the tread, if you see his whole head, your tread is not adequate. On the flip side, if the bottom

portion of Lincoln's head is partly covered, you are in pretty decent shape (see picture below).

As with all automobile related things, if unsure, take your vehicle to a trusted mechanic. A look over by a mechanic can help give you peace of mind for that long holiday weekend trip in the car.

Lastly, don't forget the proper restraints for yourself and all of the passengers in your vehicle, no matter where they are sitting. Young children belong in a car seat, and all other occupants should be in a proper seat with a seat belt. It can't be said enough, seat belts save lives.



Upcoming Driver Safety Training:

- December 9, Distracted Driving- OPB Floor 18, Room 020
- December 17, Distracted Driving Temple Univ (Ctr. City) Floor 2, Room 225

For more information on any Safety Trainings, see the Google Calendar at:

www.phila.gov/risk