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Public Safety Digest



Published monthly by the Office of Traffic Safety
The University of Texas at Tyler

NON-CIRCULATING

February, 1981

Volume 4/ No. 2

1980 Manual Ready

The 1980 Texas Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (TMUTCD) is ready for distribution from the State Department of Highways and Public Transportation.

The 1980 issue is published as a single volume and replaces Volume 1 and 2 of the 1973 Texas MUTCD.

SDHPT will furnish one free copy of the Manual to each county and incorporated city in Texas upon request by letter. An additional free copy may be available to those cities with a traffic engineer or traffic planning department, provided justification for its need is included in the written request.

Letters should be sent to:

State Department of Highways and
Public Transportation

ATTN: File D-18 T
11th Street and Brazos
Austin, Texas 78701

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FUEL FACTS

The U.S. Department of Transportation has just made available information on its Voluntary Truck and Bus Fuel Economy Program. If you would like to know more about the project, write:

VOLUNTARY TRUCK AND BUS
FUEL ECONOMY PROGRAM
NRD - 20
U.S. DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

Walking Care

If you are one of the many people who walk for exercise, here are some suggestions to make those daily outings safer, especially if you use the streets and roadways.

- * Use sidewalks when available.
- * Walk or run against the flow of traffic. This lets you spot an accident in time to move away.
- * Walk when there is plenty of daylight.
- * Wear reflective clothing or tape on outer jackets.
- * Don't allow hats or headgear to block vision.
- * WALK DEFENSIVELY

SAFETY IN 1981

The Texas Safety Association has released its 1981 calendar that highlights these "Safety Weeks" for accident prevention in the home, on the job, and at work.

March 15-21 National Poison Prevention Week

April 20-26 National Bike Safety Week

May 3-9 National Motorcycle Awareness Week

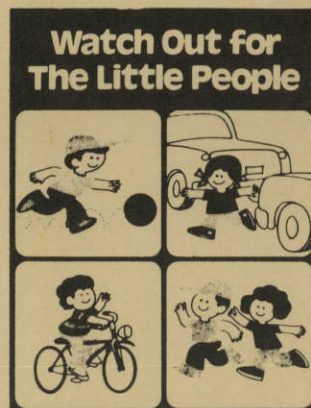
July 25-31 National Farm Safety Week

August 23-29 Back to School Week

If your school or organization would like to plan safety activities for these weeks contact the Office of Traffic Safety, at U.T. Tyler for more information.

WINTER WEATHER TIPS

When it begins to rain, use your windshield washers when you first turn on your wipers. They will keep the windshield from streaking. Every now and then, replace them when worn or brittle. Remember to check your washer bottle too, when you check your oil.



DEFENSIVE DRIVING



The Defensive Driving Course is an eight-hour classroom course designed to improve driver skills, and attitudes, especially, in emergency situations. Students learn to recognize accidents in the making plus the defensive action necessary to avoid them.

The State Board of Insurance has approved a 10% discount on automobile insurance to drivers who complete the training. The principal driver of each family vehicle must complete the course for the discount to apply to each vehicle. You cannot receive a DDC credit if you also claim credit for high school driver education.

To find out where you can enroll in a DDC course, contact:

THE TEXAS SAFETY ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 9345
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78766
(512) 451-7421

DRIVELINE

Country Cousins Vs. City Slickers: More accidents occur in the city than the country, because of crowded streets and traffic congestion; but the traffic death rate is higher in rural areas, because of higher average travel speed and greater distances to emergency medical aid. National studies show that interstate highways are the safest places to drive. The most dangerous are two lane rural roads and city streets.

There are over 105 million passenger cars on the American highways. Within the next five years over 60 million of them will be abandoned, scrapped or replaced.

Tragic Irony: Americans demand that their children be inoculated against diseases such as polio and smallpox. Yet most parents don't buckle their children into safety belts or child restraint devices for trips in the family car. **Traffic accidents are the number one killer of children in the United States . . .**

THE SECOND COLLISION: *In most car wrecks it's the "second collision" that really does the damage to passengers. The "first collision" is when the car hits an object or stops. One-fiftieth of a second later comes the second collision, when the car's passengers come to a stop by hitting the dashboard, windshield, steering wheel, etc.*

If you don't wear a safety belt, even a "moderate" crash can throw you against the interior of your car with tremendous force. In a wreck at 30 mph your body is thrown forward or sideways with a force equal to 30 times your weight. For a 150 pound person that's 4,500 pounds of force. Most of us would prefer not to have a weight that heavy dropped on our heads . . .

Solution? Safety belts. Studies show that 40 percent of front seat passenger deaths could be avoided if everyone used safety belts.