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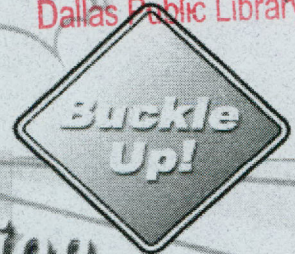
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On The Road With...

Spring 2000



Rural Passenger Safety Education

Vol. 1 No. 11



Texas Agricultural Extension Service
THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

Teenager Survives Rollover Crash Buckling Up Saves Lives, Including His Own

by
Blair Fannin, Texas Agricultural Communications Department

CONROE – Jeremy Haynes describes his experience of rolling inside a 1987 Jeep Cherokee rollover crash “like a roller coaster gone bad.” “You don’t know if it’s going to stop,” said the 17-year-old Conroe High School junior, who is a member of the varsity tennis team and active in several clubs. “You don’t know if you’re going to come out of it alive.”

Fortunately for Haynes, he survived the February collision thanks to buckling his safety belt, but he still has hope authorities can find the person that pulled out in front of him and a group of cars traveling west bound one evening on Highway 105 in Montgomery County.

Haynes recalls getting off work from his part-time job at Furrow Building Materials at approximately 9 p.m. and looking forward to a little relaxation once he arrived home. But then an unfortunate chain of events occurred. “I was behind a white Lincoln, then I saw a red Firebird off to the side,” said Haynes. “It looked as if it was going to pull out in front of us, but I didn’t think it was. I was thinking, ‘If you’re smart, you won’t.’”

But the Firebird did, pulling out about 30 feet in front of the group of cars. The next three minutes Haynes said he will never forget. “Everybody slammed on their brakes,” Haynes said. “My brakes locked up and so I had to swerve around people so that I didn’t hit anybody. I remember I was in the incoming lane because I was swerving so much. Then I swerved out of the oncoming lane to avoid hitting a car.

Then I was in the median and I just started rolling. The next thing I remember was sitting upside down thinking it was a dream.” Haynes’ driver’s side window was shattered. With a few pieces of glass stuck in his ear, Haynes unbuckled his safety belt and was able to crawl through the passenger side window, walking away without serious injury.



“I crawled out of my car and I was in awe,” he said. “I couldn’t believe what had just happened. Then everybody came by and asked if anybody was in the car. They asked if I was OK. I had my safety belt on the minute I got into the car. That’s what saved my life. I had several people tell me that.”

Marlene Albers, Rural Passenger Safety Education Project Manager with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service in College Station, said it’s important that people remember to buckle up. “It only takes a few seconds to buckle up and save your life,” Albers said. “If you roll a vehicle of any kind and you’re in a safety belt, you’re not going to get bounced around inside the car and sustain serious injuries. “I witnessed Jeremy’s crash and thought it was not a survivable crash

see *Saved by the Belt* page 3

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Keep It Moving

by Chief Harry Crum

The week of May 22nd is **Buckle Up America Week** and **Operation ABC Mobilization**. The two national events, both draw attention to traffic safety and increased enforcement by law enforcement across the country. Many activities will take place during this period to heighten the awareness of traffic safety. More than 7,000 law enforcement agencies have made commitments to increasing their activities. In Region VI, which includes Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, New Mexico and the Indian Nations, 1,400 agencies have made commitments. Six hundred-fifty (650) are from Texas, representing more than 41,000 law enforcement officers.

Reducing the death toll on our roadways by aggressively enforcing DWI, aggressive driving, occupant protection and other traffic laws will save many lives. In 1998, more than 41,000 deaths occurred in traffic related crashes. Thirty-eight (38%) percent, or 15,935 deaths were alcohol related - that is one every 33 minutes. Texas led the nation in 1998 with 3,577 traffic related deaths, and fifty (50%) percent of those were alcohol related.

To help reduce the number of traffic related injuries and deaths, a million dollars in grant funds from the Texas Department of Transportation has been set aside. Many Texas law enforcement agencies will participate in summer waves to step up enforcement and public education about traffic safety. In addition, Texas has recently acquired the services of law enforcement liaison officers through grants from the Texas Department of Transportation. These officers cover geographic areas of the state, and may be reached by calling 1-800-423-8433. They provide assistance to law enforcement agencies and the public at large in terms of information, training assistance, and guidance to the traffic safety community as a whole. Contact your Traffic Safety Specialist at the Texas Department of Trans-



National Goals*

- ✓ Increase safety belt use to 85% by the year 2000*
- ✓ Reduce child passenger fatalities 15% by the year 2000**
- ✓ Increase safety belt use to 90% by the year 2005*
- ✓ Reduce child passenger fatalities 25% by the year 2005**

Texas is dedicated to meeting the national goals and is an active partner in Buckle Up America.

* Baseline data from 68% in 1996

** Reduced to 515 in 2005

portation facility in your area for assistance. Or call me at 1-817-978-2021 for additional information.

From the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, we ask that you remember to always drive friendly, make a conscious effort to set an example to others by modeling good driving habits, and always, always Buckle Up!

Source: Chief Harry Crum NHTSA, Region VI, 819 Taylor St. Rm. 8A38, Ft. Worth, TX 76102 or call 817-978-2021, 2000.

Resources Available:

Educational material available from the Passenger Safety Resource Library to support Buckle Up America Week:

Exhibits:

Child Safety Seats
Child Care Provider

Interactive items:

Question & Answer Board
Buckle Bear Lap Puppet
Dead Or Alive (computer software)

Videos:

Air Bags and Kids
Buckle Bear
Are We There Yet?
Securing Our Future

Brochures:

Securing Our Future - Safe Riders

Fact Sheets:

ABC's of Child Passenger Safety
Grandparents and Child Safety Seats
Understanding Your Safety Belt
Babies and Air Bags Don't Mix

Contact Myrna Hill at 979-845-1104 for assistance with any resource materials.

GET READY FOR MAY

In much of the country, May brings warm weather and an increase in the number of people who walk, bicycle, and ride motorcycles for transportation, recreation, and exercise. May is also the perfect time to emphasize that automobiles share the road with motorcyclists, bicyclists, and pedestrians, and provides an important opportunity for traffic safety programs to respond to the needs of *all* roadway users.

May is both National Bike Month and National Motorcycle Safety Month. To support National Motorcycle Safety Month, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and the Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF) are sponsoring a national media tour, which will provide local media outlets with the opportunity to interview both motorcycle safety experts and celebrities with an interest in motorcycle safety, and to obtain pre-

packaged video footage to use during news broadcasts. This is a valuable opportunity for Safe Communities programs to promote motorcycle safety and establish better relations with their local media and motorcycling organizations. For more information, contact Elizabeth Piper at MSF. Telephone: (949) 727-3227.

The National Association of State Motorcycle Safety Administrators, with support from NHTSA, has created a National Motorcycle Safety Month web site. The site, which can be found at www.smsa.org, includes public education materials as well as information on Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month activities in states and communities across the nation.

Source: Building Safe Communities, NHTSA, April 2000.

Saved By The Belt from page 1

I was totally amazed when I saw him alive and he said he had been belted ... I was just amazed."

Linda Mock, an Extension Agent-Family and Consumer Science in Montgomery County, said it's important for everyone to wear a safety belt regardless of their age. "I live on Highway 105 West and see how people drive and how important it is to buckle up," Mock said. "They recently increased the speed limit to 70 mph, then dropped it to 65 mph hoping to curtail some of the collisions. Most of the fatalities that we've seen on that highway involved those people who were not wearing a safety belt."

Mock noted four students from Montgomery High School involved in car crashes on Highway 105 have died since January 1999 – a couple of the fatalities were due to not wearing a safety belt. Mock and other Extension agents offer educational training in passenger safety as part of regular health fairs and other activities, she said. The Extension's

passenger safety message also appears in several county newspapers. "If we save one life with our education, then we've been successful," Mock said.

The hallmark of the Rural Passenger Safety Education Project is the

"I had my safety belt on the minute I got into the car. That's what saved my life. I had several people tell me that."

-Jeremy Haynes, Conroe

"Rollover Convincer," a pickup cab mounted on a trailer featuring an adult dummy and a child dummy with a child safety seat included. The demonstration shows what happens if the dummies are belted and the vehicle is rolled. Then the dummies are unbuckled and the demonstration shows what happens when the occupants are not buckled. More than 600,000 have viewed the Rollover Convincer in Texas. The Rollover Convincer can be

seen at health fairs, schools and child safety seat checkup events and Extension agent programs targeted at passenger safety.

Haynes said he is sold on the fact of buckling up before driving. In his case, it was a life saver. "What I tell people is definitely never drink and drive," he said. "Second, always wear your safety belt. That's what saved my life. Even if I would have had an air bag and didn't have my safety belt on, I'd probably be dead."

Haynes' mother, Tracy Wheat, recalls her son lamenting over the fact that his Jeep Cherokee was totaled and he no longer had a car. "I just wanted to shake him and say, 'You're alive. Forget the car,'" Wheat said. "If I would have lost him, I would have lost my world."

For more information about Extension passenger safety programs, call Myrna Hill with Extension Rural Passenger Safety Education at (979) 845-1104.

Cass County

Despite the threat of wet weather on Saturday, March 25, Pam Lincoln, Cass County Extension agent-FCS, had a successful Child Safety Seat Checkup Event. A total of 59 safety seats were checked, and 43 child safety seats were given to Cass County families to ensure that their children would be riding safely. Ten child safety seats were replaced due



Atlanta Police officer, Capt. Steve Mericle, and CSS technician, Tom Dupree, check over a safety seat.

to government recalls, one child safety seat had been involved in a crash, and a total of 28 seats were destroyed after being determined to be unsafe. Congratulations to Pam and her volunteers for making Atlanta and the surrounding communities safer for children.

Wharton County

Marilyn Sebesta, CEA-FCS, Wharton County, had an amazing turnout for her first checkup event. Fifty volunteers helped at the event and five law enforcement agencies were represented. Seventy-six car seats in 53 vehicles were checked. Fifty safety seats were given out at the event for the following reasons: 13 children who needed restraints arrived without any restraints at all,



DPS Trooper, Gary Pflughaupt, adjusts the straps of a child at the Wharton County checkup event.

(photo courtesy of El Campo Leader-News)

11 seats had unknown histories, two seats had been involved in crashes, one seat was under recall and 14 seats were too old. The technicians installed the seats and educated the parents so they could properly install the seats themselves. Congratulations to Marilyn and her local backers for a successful event.

Child Safety Seat Checkup Events



Lampasas County

Marilyn May, CEA-FCS, Lampasas County, held a successful Child Safety Seat Checkup Event on Saturday, April 8. Safety seats for 28 children were checked. Eighteen seats were given away; three seats had been involved in crashes prior to the event, five child safety seats had been recalled, and 11 child



Myrna Hill, TAEX CSS technician, fits a child to a booster seat at the Lampasas county checkup event.

safety seats that were considered unsafe for use were destroyed. The Hoffpauer Dealership and the enthusiastic volunteers helped to make this a successful event. Parents left the dealership with smiles. Special thanks to Marilyn and her community.

Burleson County

Carolyn Smith, CEA-FCS, Burleson County, sponsored a Child Safety Seat Checkup Event on January 22nd. A total of 19 seats were checked. Fifteen seats were given out where the original seats were found to be unsafe. Three seats had unknown histories and nine seats were deemed unsafe and



Seats taken out of service at the Burleson County checkup event.

were destroyed. There were no seats that were recalled or involved in crashes. A large thank you to Carolyn and her volunteers.

SIDE AIR BAGS AND CHILD SAFETY

CAUTION

**Side
Air Bags
and
Child Safety**

The following consumer advisory was issued by the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) for owners of passenger cars and light trucks equipped with side air bags: "Side impact air bags can provide significant supplemental safety benefits to adults in side impact crashes.

However, children who are seated in close proximity to a side air bag may be at risk of serious or fatal injury, especially if the child's head, neck or chest is in close proximity to the air bag at the time of deployment. Because there are variations in the design and performance of side air bags, manufacturers should notify consumers regarding whether it is safe for children to sit next to the side air bags. Children 12 and under should always travel in the rear seat and use an age appropriate restraint.

"Since children should be seated in the rear seat, NHTSA

has asked each manufacturer of vehicles with rear side air bags to ship the vehicles to dealers with these air bags deactivated, unless the manufacturer has determined that those side air bags impose no significant risk to children. Purchasers who want such air bags activated, after being advised of the potential risk to out of position children, should be able to have them switched on by their dealer. We are also asking manufacturers to advise current owners of vehicles with such rear side air bags that the owners can bring them back to their dealer to have the bags deactivated if they are likely to be carrying children in the rear outboard seats."

Source: The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), under the U.S. Department of Transportation, Consumer Advisory, October 14, 1999.

Another Class of Technicians...

The Rural Passenger Safety Education Project, of the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, in collaboration with Texas Department of Transportation, hosted a NHTSA Child Passenger Safety Technician Training in Ft. Worth, February 22-25, 2000. A special thank you to Jackie Carter, Traffic Safety Specialist-Texas Department of Transportation for hosting the event and site coordinator, Shauna Fitzjarrell, of the Crime Prevention Resource Center.

Following the certification training, a checkup event was

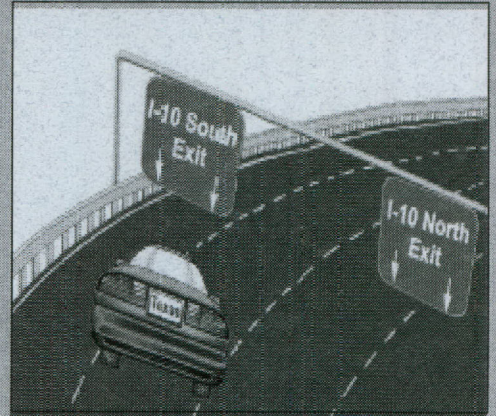
held and many local residents had the opportunity to have their child safety seats checked by the new technicians.

The last NHTSA training was conducted May 2-5, 2000 in Amarillo.

Exits, Exits

Summer vacation...a time to relax and recharge! But just how relaxing is it in a strange city, on a strange highway? Finding the correct exit in heavy traffic may be stressful if you are not in the proper lane. Most exits are on the right side, but a few are on the left. How can you anticipate where you should be when you want to leave the freeway?

In the federal highway system, a special yellow "left exit" panel is usually added to the bottom of the freeway guide sign. But there is another clue: See how the exit number panel is positioned above the freeway guide sign. Most are on the right side, but if the exit number panel is on the left, you will exit from the left.



Knowing how to read the position of the exit panel provides extra time to move safely into the correct lane or, if not exiting, to be alert to other vehicles that are.

Source: USAA Magazine, March-April 2000.

It's Happening in Texas!

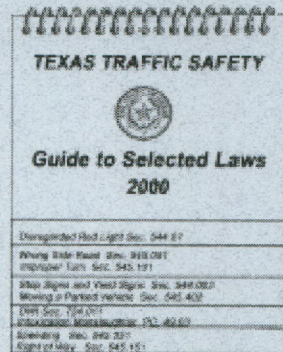
**THE INTERNATIONAL CPS
TECHNICAL CONFERENCE**

Arlington, TX
June 10-14, 2000

For further information contact
CIP, 1-800-344-7580, ext. 10

Coming in June

**Guide to Selected Laws
2000**



Flipcharts
*Updated with
the 1999
changes to the
Texas Traffic
Laws.*

Contact Rural Passenger Safety
Education at 979-862-1782 to get
on the mailing list.

TALK TO YOUR CHILDREN

TO PREVENT CAR TRUNK ENTRAPMENT

Hide-and-seek is a common children's game and a trunk is the perfect hiding space to a child who does not know car trunks can be fatal. Indy car driver, safe driving advocate and concerned mother, Lyn St. James, has partnered with Drive Safe America! to ensure driving techniques and practices are top-of-mind with parents and children.

"Since 1970, more than 1,175 people have been victims in trunk entrapments including children who unintentionally locked themselves in," says Ms. St. James, "More and more cars have ways for children to gain access to

trunks: remote trunk releases by driver door, trunk openers on key chains and crawl spaces into trunks from the rear seat."

General Motors is planning to equip several four-door family cars with an infrared device that detects heat and motion. If the device senses a person is trapped inside, the trunk automatically opens. GM first introduced a handle inside the trunk of its cars for trapped passengers to manually release the lid, but today most car trunks are not trap-resistant. Cars that do not have a trap-resistant trunk can have a dealer trap resistant trunk kit installed to allow trapped children to successfully escape injury and death. By turning a small illuminated yellow handle mounted inside the trunk lid and connected to the latch by a cable, children can easily open a locked trunk from the inside.

A T-shaped trap-resistant handle glows inside the trunk as a standard feature on several 2000 Ford models and DaimlerChrysler is planning to make trunk-release systems a standard feature for new cars by 2001.

Source: Drive Safer America, March 2000.

Ms. St. James offers the following tips to protect your children from getting trapped in the trunk of a car:

- Never leave car keys where kids can access them.
- Ensure your car doors and trunk are locked so children cannot access a car unsupervised.
- Keep rear fold-down seats closed to help prevent kids from getting into the trunk from inside the car.
- Instruct kids not to play in or around cars.
- Teach children about the dangers of a car, especially the trunk.
- Install a trap-resistant trunk kit to prevent injury.

Corpus Christi Spring Break Activities



Students test their ability with DW Eyes and other activities during spring break.

Sherry McLeroy, District Traffic Specialist, TX-SDOT, Corpus Christi, headed up "Working for a Safe Community" spring break activities on the beach. Sherry stated, "Although it was cold that day, the 30 volunteers that helped all agreed we were successful in what we were trying to achieve. We had about 325 students sign pledges to not drink and drive. To give credit to the students who participated at our tent, I would have to say we did not encounter one rude or unruly person." Some of the interactive educational activities included "Test Your Traffic Safety Knowledge", computer game "Dead or Alive", DW Eyes, and having pictures made at the hammerhead shark/surfer cutout board. The anti-drinking and driving theme was stressed. Everyone had a good time.



Safe Communities Corner

with Ann Athey, RN, MSN



Safe Communities Technical Support Available

Have you ever wondered if your injury control efforts make a difference? Do you believe that your community has an injury problem, but you're not exactly sure? Do you need assistance in building a comprehensive injury control program? Do you have an idea on how to reduce injuries and wonder if it has been tried before? Does lack of data have your action plan on hold?

If so, you need to meet Ann Athey. Ms. Athey, is an injury control specialist contractor with the Injury Prevention Center of Greater Dallas and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Region VI office, in Fort Worth, Texas. Her job is to support the development of Safe Communities within the Region VI area which includes Texas, Bureau of Indian Affairs, New Mexico, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Arkansas. Her vast experience in childhood injury prevention, emergency nursing and pediatric trauma system development has made her a passionate injury control advocate.

Injuries and deaths from motor vehicle collisions are at an epidemic proportion in this country. Compared to other states, Texas leads the nation in the number of people killed due to traffic crashes. The Safe Community approach is proven to assist communities in reducing the all too frequent occurrence and wasteful cost of transportation related injuries.

Ms. Athey is available to provide technical support in your efforts to develop a new or strengthen an existing Safe Community by using the 5-E's injury control model: evaluation, engineering and technology, education, enactment of legislation, enforcement and evaluation. The model encourages a systematic approach to reducing injuries with safety advocates from various fields: health care, churches, traffic safety, law enforcement, public health, education, insurance, city planners, businesses, EMS and fire departments and more. Cities and towns all across America are experiencing the far-reaching benefits of close collaboration as a result of participation at the community, administrative and political level.

Arrangements can be made with Ann Athey for her to visit a community and help with problem solving, facilitating change, and discussions on how to create effective injury prevention plans. Ms. Athey is also there to assist a community with linking to other resources that can facilitate injury prevention programs.

Visit the NHTSA Safe Communities service center web site to read about the Safe Communities approach and local Safe Community efforts: <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/safecommunities>. You may contact Ann Athey at 817-978-3614 or e-mail her at: Ann.Athey@nhtsa.dot.gov

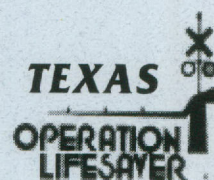
Source: Ann Athey, RN, MSN, NHTSA Safe Communities, 2000.

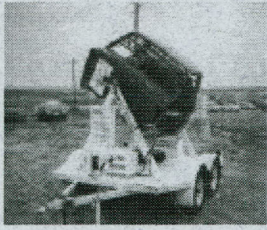
Texas 1999 PRELIMINARY STATISTICS

Disappointing news for Texas in 1999: the state saw a 13% increase in the number of collisions at railroad crossings, according to preliminary statistics from the Federal Railroad Administration. There were 364 vehicle/train collisions in 1999, compared to 322 in 1998. And, although deaths resulting from these incidents were down 9% - 41 in 1999 compared to 45 in 1998 - there was a 10% increase in injuries - 172 in 1999 compared to 158 in 1998.

Railroad trespass fatalities were down 8% in Texas in 1999; 41 in 1999 compared to 50 in 1998. Unfortunately, injuries sustained by railroad trespassers in 1999 rose 11% over 1998 figures: 86 injuries in 1999 compared to 78 injuries in 1998.

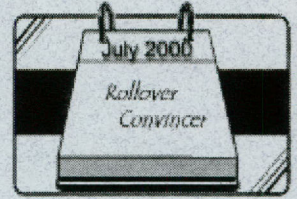
Source: Bebe Allen, Texas Operation Lifesaver, 2000





Make a Date with the Rollover Convincer

From October 1, 1999 through March 31, 2000 the Rollover Convincer has been viewed by over 18,700 people in FY2000 (Oct. 1 - March 31, 2000). Because of the popularity of the Rollover Convincer reservations are usually recommended several months in advance. There are still some openings in July. Please contact Myrna Hill at 979-845-1104 as soon as possible to make reservations to use the Convincer at your July program.



AARP 55 ALIVE Mature Driving Course



The AARP 55 ALIVE course covers the normal changes in vision, hearing and reaction time associated with aging and provides practical techniques to compensate for these changes. Participants also receive a thorough review of the "rules of the road," with an emphasis on defensive driving practices. The informative easy-to-read course workbook is based on data collected from federal and state agencies, universities, and traffic safety organizations.

The eight-hour course is taught in two, four-hour sessions spanning two days, and costs \$10. The course helps drivers refine existing skills and develop safe, defensive driving techniques. AARP members and non-members alike may take the course. There are no tests.

6 Million Graduates and the Number is Still Growing!

Since the program's inception in 1979, over 6 million people have completed the course. In the last 3 years, over 1.8 million people have participated in over 85,000 classes. That represents about 3% of all eligible drivers age 50 or over.

Auto Insurance Discounts Available

Upon completing the 8-hour AARP 55 ALIVE/Mature Driving course, participants receive a course completion certificate for submission to their personal insurance agent. The certificate is good for three years by state law. Texas has approved an insurance reduction of 10% on the premium. AARP 55 ALIVE is an approved course in every state. Check with an insurance company for more details.

Partnerships that Work!

AARP 55 ALIVE is co-sponsored by a wide variety of national organizations, including the American Hospital Association, American Bankers Association, International Association of Chiefs of Police, National Sheriff's Association, and the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging, just to name a few. These co-sponsors provide facilities to hold the courses, and help promote the program within the community. In turn, community members who take the AARP 55 ALIVE course come to appreciate the co-sponsors as supporters of community service programs.

A Volunteer-based Program: Community Members Helping Each Other

Over 8,100 AARP-trained volunteers currently teach, administer and promote the course in local communities throughout the United States. Texas is home to over 1.8 million AARP members. There are approximately 850 volunteer instructors in the state of Texas. Volunteers derive a great deal of personal satisfaction through giving something back to their communities and providing information which can save and improve lives. Volunteers' expenses for teaching or coordinating courses are reimbursed by AARP.

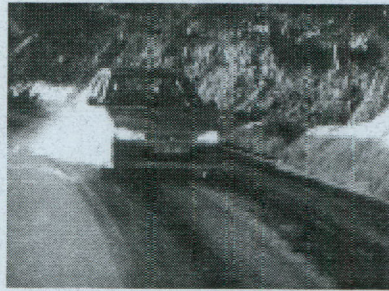
For more information on AARP 55 ALIVE class locations, volunteer opportunities, or to become a program co-sponsor, please call toll free at: 1-888-227-7669 (1-888-AARPNOW) or write to: AARP 55 ALIVE, 601 E. Street, NW, Washington, DC 20049 or visit the web site: www.aarp.org/55alive

Source: AARP 55 Alive Fact Sheet, 2000.

Texas Driving and Severe Weather

Severe weather is a frequent threat in Texas in the spring months. Increasing in activity from February into March and again from March into April, severe weather reaches its peak in May. Severe thunderstorms, carrying with them the potential for heavy rainfall, large hail, damaging winds and even tornadoes, pose a threat to travel anywhere in the state. Heavy rain makes roads and streets slick and dangerous - often lowering visibility to near zero. Hail can break windshields, and also lower visibility quickly. Thunderstorm winds stir up dust and dirt, and, when mixed with rain or hail, again can drop visibility to near zero with little warning. But the other weather factors can be even more deadly.

FLASH FLOODING, the rapid rise in water along a stream or dry creek bed due to heavy rains or releases of water upstream, is the number one cause of weather-related deaths in Texas. Most



deaths occur when motorists try to drive through flooded low water crossings. Many flash floods

occur at night, making escape extremely difficult or even impossible. There is really only one safety rule - stay out of deep water. If your vehicle stalls in deep water, you should leave it and move to higher ground **if you can do so safely**.

LIGHTNING is the second greatest weather-related threat to life in Texas. You are generally safe from lightning inside your vehicle, as long as you are not touching metal. This isn't because the tires are grounding you; a thin layer of rubber is of little concern to a massive bolt of lightning. You are safer because the vehicle spreads the lightning charge around its outer shell,

diluting the charge before it leaks into the ground through the tires.

Never try to outrun a TORNADO in your vehicle; a tornado can change its movement without warning. It can turn to the left or right, go back in the direction it came from, split into two or more, or speed up to 50 mph. If a tornado threatens, get away from your vehicle and seek shelter in a low area, such as ditch or ravine or culvert. Crouch low in the duck-and-cover position and protect your head with your hands and arms. Remember to stay alert to the threat from lightning and flash flooding.

While driving, stay tuned to your local radio or carry a NOAA Weather Radio with you for the latest weather information!

Source: Larry Eblen, National Weather Service, Austin/San Antonio 830-606-3617, 2000.

What's New in
Child Safety Seats

Snug-Seat Introduces Wee-Go Bed

The new Snug-Seat car bed, designed for infants, who must lie flat for medical reasons, is now available from Snug Fit. It has a fully padded interior, into which the child is zipped in a sleeping bag. The sleeping bag can be modified for specific needs. The bed is fastened to the vehicle safety belt in a manner that allows a very snug fit. It takes up two seating positions due to its length, but is anchored by only one belt.

Wee-Go Bed is for babies from four to 21 pounds and up to 29.5 inches long. The bed's exterior dimensions are 15.5 x 32 x 10 inches and weighs 18 pounds. Cost is \$395.00. Contact: Snug Seat, 800-336-7684 or visit their web site at: <http://www.snugseat.com>

Source: Safe Ride News, January/February 2000.



In Memory of
Officer Stacy Brown

Dec. 22, 1973 - Mar. 20, 2000

Lamesa police officer, Stacy Brown, recently passed away. Officer Brown was formerly a Cochran County Deputy. Stacy represented Rural Passenger Safety Education, Texas Agricultural Extension Service and the Texas Department of Transportation as a spokesperson with law enforcement to deliver educational programs in his region on traffic safety issues. He had a vision to make his city and county a better place to live and a better place to raise children.

He made a difference in all the lives he touched. He will be greatly missed.

Attention County Extension Agents!

Family and Consumer Sciences Institute 2000 is fast approaching. Institute will be held in Austin, TX on September 26-29, 2000 at the Doubletree Hotel. The theme of the Institute this year is *Making a Difference in a Changing Texas*.

Watch your mailbox for more information.



TIMELY TIPS
NEW into the Millennium

May 2000

- ⊕ 5/14-5/20/00 National Transportation Week
- ⊕ 5/14-5/20/00 National Emergency Medical Services Week
- ⊕ 5/20/00 Child Safety Seat Checkup Event, Henderson County, 10 pm - 2 pm, contact Carrie Betts, 903-675-6130
- ⊕ 5/22-5/29/00 Buckle Up America! Week and Operation ABC Mobilization Week
- ⊕ National Motorcycle Safety Month
- ⊕ National Bike Month

June 2000

- ⊕ 6/12-6/16/00 4-H State Roundup, Safety Contest, June 15, 2000
- ⊕ 6/10-6/14/00 International CPS Technical Conference 2000, Arlington, TX, contact CIP at 1-800-344-7580, ext. 10.

July 2000

- ⊕ 7/1-7/4/00 You Drink & Drive, You Lose. Mobilization Weekend
- ⊕ 7/25-7/28/00 NHTSA CSS Technician Training - San Antonio, sponsored by USAA, contact Steve Anderson, 210-498-8773

RESOURCES ON THE WWW



You are invited...

To visit us on the **WEB**

Rural Passenger Safety Education

<http://fcs.tamu.edu/safety>

Check out our new site with a searchable database to locate a NHTSA Certified Child Safety Seat Technician.

COMING SOON!

<http://buckleup.tamu.edu>

The newsletter, *On The Road With...* is produced by the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, Rural Passenger Safety Education Project in cooperation with the Texas Department of Transportation.

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Extension programs serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability, or national origin.



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