

## Teen Driver Safety Week



October 20-26, 2024 is National Teen Driver Safety Week . This is the 17th year individuals and organizations have united to address the #1 cause of serious injury and death for young people— car crashes. This week long effort is aimed at creating awareness and education on the importance of safe driving for teens aged 15-18. Car crashes are the leading cause of death for this age group, and parents and guardians play a crucial role in promoting safe driving practices and behaviors.

We believe that one voice can make a difference. The Pennington County Teens Toward Zero Deaths have included mental health in their traffic safety education to teens. Studies have shown that mental health can impact road safety. Drivers of all ages that are experiencing emotional feelings can affect how a person drives. Anxiety and depression symptoms are associated with risky driving behavior. Teen Toward Zero Deaths addresses mental health along with younger driver traffic safety to help reduce teen fatalities and serious injuries on our roadways.

Distracted driving is one of the main reasons for car crashes. If you are engaged in another activity, or your thoughts are somewhere else other than the road, that will impact your ability to drive safely. Distracted driving is no better than driving under the influence. Teens Toward Zero Deaths educates the importance of regulating your emotions before you get behind the wheel of a car and to be a good passenger in a car. Passengers can affect how someone drives well or if they are a distraction and they contribute to 50% of all the teen fatalities on our roadways.

Parent **quick tips** when practicing driving with your teen:

- Be calm and patient
- Expect mistakes
- Give proper instructions
- Stay focused
- Drive the way you want your teen to drive



## National Bus Safety Week

Held during the third full week of October each year, National School Bus Safety Week is an active and evolving public education program and an excellent way for parents, students, teachers, motorists, school bus operators, school administrators, and other interested parties - to join forces and address the importance of school bus safety.

Safe Kids and TZD team up to educate students on bus, car/passenger, bike, and pedestrian safety at elementary schools in our district. Our first Safety Around School was held at Challenger Elementary School on Sept 18, 2024. Grades kindergarten through 5th grade received the education.



## Enforcement Update:

- DWI (optional) Oct 25-26; Oct 31, 2024—Halloween
- DWI (optional) Nov 8-9, 2024—Deer Hunting Opener
- DWI: Nov 27-30; Dec 5-7; 12-14; 19-21; 26-28; 31, 2024



## Central Boiler Holds Wellness Fair

On September 18th, Central Boiler/Altoz held their Wellness Fair for their Red Lake Falls employees and September 19th for their Greenbush location employees. Financial, benefits, public health, enforcement, Toward Zero Deaths, veteran, and several other vendor booths attended the fair. Employees were able to visit all booths and talk to the representatives regarding their information.

Toward Zero Deaths brought their Fatal Vision goggles to show the dangers of impaired and drowsy driving. The Traffic Trivia Wheel tested the employees on their knowledge of traffic laws. It was a fun day of engagement and education!



## Impact Teen Drivers

Our first Impact Teen Drivers presentation was held in Kelliher High School on September 20, 2024. The video "Are You Living in a Dreamworld" was presented to the students. The education focused on distracted and wreckless driving. Car crashes are the #1 killer of teens in the United States with 50% of those fatalities being passengers. The State Patrol and TZD has eight more schools in the region to present to this Fall. **Buckle up, every trip, every ride!**



## Mark your Calendars!

- Oct 22 & 23, 2024—TZD State Conference—St. Cloud River's Edge Convention Center
- Apr 30, 2025—Teen TZD Conference—Evangelical Free Church in TRF
- May 1, 2025—NW Regional Workshop—Thief River Falls Legacy Center

## Toward Zero Deaths Northwest Regional Newsletter

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