

Safe Driving Lesson Plan

Law Enforcement

Grade level: 10-12

Subject area: Any

Duration: 20-50 minutes

Objectives:

Students will do the following:

- Identify key factors associated with teenage traffic collisions.
- Understand the responsibilities of a newly licensed driver.
- Have a better understanding of consequences associated with inexperienced and distracted driving.
- Discuss ways in which behaviors affect safe driving and ways to improve driving safety.

Materials:

- Laptop
- Impact Posters
- Impact Probability Wheel
- Impact DVD mini-documentaries
- Photos or information on a local traffic collision caused by a distracted or inexperienced driver (optional)
- Promotional items to hand out for correct answers

Procedures:

Ask the class what common factors are associated with traffic collisions involving teenagers.

See how many listed any of the following and discuss:

- Unsafe speed; following too close; unsafe lane change; changing the radio station; texting or talking on the phone; reading directions or looking at a map; putting on make-up or fixing hair; showing off for friends/passengers; inattention-talking to passengers; reaching for a dropped CD/cell phone; looking at a previous collision or broken down vehicle on the side of the roadway; lack of sleep; driving while under the influence of alcohol or drugs (including marijuana).

Example 1- Have the students take out their cell phones and make a call or look at a classmate to see what color their shirt is while you show a few slides and discuss teen collision statistics or other important information. Once they hang up or look forward, see if they can tell you what was on the slide and what you spoke about. Explain to them that during the time they took their eyes off the road for that brief moment, they hit a pedestrian or veered off the roadway and struck a tree.

Example 2- Have something in your hand (i.e., bean bag) that you can toss to someone in the audience. Notice how all the students will watch the bean bag? Use this to illustrate another distraction that can cause them to take their eyes off the roadway for a brief moment.

*Operating a vehicle takes 100 percent of your attention at all times.

Discuss what responsibilities students have as new drivers.

Driving within provisional license restrictions (Graduated License Law). Per the California Department of Motor Vehicles:

- For the first 12 months (or until the driver reaches his or her 18th birthday), no passengers under the age of 20 are allowed in the provisional license holder's vehicle unless a licensed driver age 25 or older is present.
- For the first 12 months, the new driver needs to be accompanied by a driver 25 years of age or older if teenager is driving between the hours of 11 P.M. and 5 A.M. or if the driver is transporting passengers under the age of 20.

A full-privilege license may be granted after the driver successfully undergoes the first two steps for the proper amount of time and there are no outstanding DMV or court-ordered restrictions, suspensions, or probations on the driver's record.

- Knowing and following the law (i.e. Speed limits, complete stops, right of way)
- Driving within their ability
- Wearing their seatbelt and ensuring all passengers wear their seatbelts
- Choosing *not* to drink and drive

Discuss how simple mistakes can cause fatal collisions. Discuss possible scenarios and how they relate back to the items listed above.

Example- An inexperienced driver is traveling at 85 to 90 mph to try to make it home before their midnight curfew. What can happen if he/she gets a blow out, or is cut off by another vehicle? How does their speed, lack of driving experience, or a passenger not wearing a seatbelt affect the outcome?

Discuss information regarding alcohol related incidents.

In 2003, 196 young drivers between the ages of 15-19 were intoxicated and involved in motor vehicle collisions. 24 percent of these drivers (47) were killed as a result of their actions.

Play a testimonial from the IMPACT website (optional)

After the testimonial, ask the students the question, "If you knew you were going to die or kill someone because you were speeding, texting, or distracted while driving (use what's relevant to the collision in the testimonial, what would you say to your family or the family of the person you killed?"

Discuss the possible repercussions of a collision caused by distracted or inexperienced driving (i.e. death, guilt, debilitating injury, disfigurement). Discuss the permanence of these conditions and how it can affect your life or the lives of others.

Assignment:

Ask questions regarding the information provided. Students who provide the most correct answers should be rewarded with CHP promotional items or an IMPACT Teen Driver's T-Shirt. Encourage students to access the website at home and share the information learned with friends and family members.