



Crashes Are No Accident



Each year, more than 800 people lose their lives in crashes on Indiana roadways.

Most of those crashes were caused by impaired driving, speeding, and aggressive or distracted driving.

You hold the keys to crash prevention.



Crashes Are No Accident



The following safety tips will help you avoid the most common fatal errors drivers make, and help you reach your destination safely.

Five Keys to Crash Prevention

- **Buckle Up!** Make sure you and your passengers are properly restrained.
- **Never Drive Impaired.** Avoid alcohol and drugs. Use a designated driver.
- **Drive Attentively.** Avoid the three most common distractions: Smartphones, audio devices and radio, and food and beverages.
- **Drive Defensively.** Aggressive drivers take unnecessary risks and often cause crashes.
- **Share the Road.** Look out for pedestrians, bicycles, motorcycles, and commercial trucks.



Buckle Up!

By wearing seat belts and buckling children into age- and size-appropriate car seats and booster seats, people can reduce the risk of serious injury and death by half.

- Never operate your vehicle until everyone is buckled up.
- Seat belts are the most effective means of reducing the risk of death in a crash.
- When used properly, lap/shoulder seat belts reduce the risk of fatal injury to front-seat passenger car occupants by 45 percent and the risk of moderate-to-critical injury by 50 percent.
- Seat belts are your best defense against impaired, aggressive or distracted drivers.
- Set a good example for your children. Use your seat belt every time you travel.
- You can get pulled over and ticketed in Indiana for not having your seat belt fastened.



Never Drive Impaired

In the U.S., a person is killed in a crash caused by alcohol or drug impairment every 51 minutes. Following these safety tips can help keep you from becoming a statistic:

- About one in three traffic deaths in the U.S. involve a drunk driver.
- Don't risk it. If you plan to drive, then don't drink.
- Choose a sober designated driver before drinking.
- If you drink, then use mass transit, rideshare, a taxi, spend the night, or ask a friend to drive you home.
- Immediately report impaired drivers to law enforcement.

Drive Attentively



Driving while distracted or drowsy can be deadly.

- Be active and engaged in driving.
- Be aware of your posture. Drive with your head up and your shoulders back.
- Don't be distracted. Hands-free and voice-command features can create mental distractions.
- Don't text and drive. A texting driver is 23 times more likely to get into a crash than a non-texting driver.
- Get enough rest to avoid fatigue.
- Avoid long drives at night. Take frequent breaks.
- Avoid the primary causes of distracted driving: Smartphones, audio devices and radio, and food and beverages.

Drive Defensively

Aggressive driving is extremely common and often causes crashes.

- More than half of fatal crashes involved at least one driver who performed a potentially aggressive action.
- Make every attempt to safely get out of the way of an aggressive driver.
- Put your pride in the back seat. Do not challenge an aggressive driver by speeding up or attempting to hold your own.
- Avoid eye contact and ignore gestures.
- Report aggressive drivers to law enforcement.

Share the Road



Commercial trucks, motorcycles, pedestrians, and bicycles all need special consideration on the roadway.

Trucks:

- Stay out of the “No Zone,” the blind spot on the passenger side of the truck.
- Don’t brake suddenly in front of trucks; they take much longer to stop than smaller vehicles.
- Give trucks plenty of room to turn; they have a wide turning radius.

Motorcycles:

- Watch carefully for motorcycles, they can be easily hidden in traffic.
- Anticipate hazards that may confront motorcyclists and predict how the rider may react.
- Follow at least two seconds behind a motorcycle.
- Watch out when turning left. Most crashes between motorcycles and other vehicles involve left turns at an intersection.

Pedestrians and Bicycles:

- Stop for pedestrians at crosswalks and intersections.
- Slow down, pay attention and obey the speed limit.
- Leave at least three feet of passing space between the right side of your vehicle and a bicycle.
- Reduce your speed when passing a bicycle, especially if the roadway is narrow.
- Children on bicycles are often unpredictable. Expect the unexpected.



Indiana Department of Transportation

100 North Senate Avenue, Room N755
Indianapolis, IN 46204

www.in.gov/indot

