

What Driver Safety means  
By: Amanda Beckert  
Ellet High School

Do you know anyone that has been in a car accident? That's a common question asked to many teenagers many times. This is because just about every teenager that has been asked this question will say yes. Driver safety is a necessity to know when teens start to drive. Not only will it prevent accidents, it can save lives.

To teenagers, driver safety can be overlooked because of that excitement about being able to go places without mom and dad being your taxi service. It's freedom! And anyone with that license finally in their hands knows that. Driver safety to a lot of teenagers simply means "Ok I'm being safe enough by putting on my seatbelt. Let's go already!" Then comes a moment when life flashes before ones eyes while in that car. Then is when teenagers might finally realize having the knowledge to put on your seatbelt isn't going to be enough. And then, it might be too late. Driver safety is having the knowledge to react successfully to any situation one is put in on the road. To know how to prevent skids and endure any of the elements can prevent accidents of teen drivers and help prevent accidents to other patrons of the road. Driver safety means making it home every time without a scratch on your car or more importantly yourself or passengers. It means having the confidence to make safe decisions on when and where to turn and when and where to go faster or slower. Driver safety means really using and understanding everything you were taught in elementary school and by your parents. Things like always wear a seatbelt, never drive when under the influence of alcohol or drugs, look both ways and much more really come into play with driver safety.

Teenagers knowing about driver safety will promote confidence in parents, other citizens of the road, and the teens themselves. With great driver safety knowledge, teens won't be nervous driving at night or in various weather conditions. Parents will be more willing to let there sons and daughters drive to school or to work. Citizens of the roads will have fewer accidents to worry about. This chain of events can easily lead to a safer place for live. Having proper driving knowledge and safety taught to all drivers can possibly save many lives. The desire to drive is there more than ever for teens. Crazy work schedules, school, and other events feed this desire and there aren't too many reasonable ways around it. With driver safety knowledge you get the best of both worlds for teens, parents, and the community.

So when the question comes in years to come with new teenagers "do you know anyone that has been in a car accident?" there will be fewer hands raised. A hope for the future is that all teenagers will be able to gain the knowledge to prevent any kind of accident. The hope of one day having less accident because of more knowledge while on the road is what driver safety really means to me.