

# A Crash Is Not An Accident



~~CRASHES~~  
aren't  
~~Accidents~~

**C**hanging the way we think about events, and the words we use to describe them, affects the way we behave. Motor vehicle crashes and injuries are predictable, preventable events. Continued use of the word “accident” promotes the idea that these events are outside human influence or control.

In fact, they are predictable results of specific actions.

Since we can identify the causes of crashes, we can take action to prevent them, to alter their effects, and avoid injuries.

Crashes are preventable.  
Injuries are avoidable.

**Here are 15 proven ways to prevent crashes and avoid injuries:**

- 1** Buckle up—wear seat belts
- 2** Place children in the back seat of the car and in their age and size appropriate child safety seats or seat belts
- 3** Don't drink and drive
- 4** Wear a helmet when riding a bicycle or motorcycle
- 5** Wear reflective material when walking or riding at night
- 6** Look left-right-left before crossing the street
- 7** Have a designated driver— don't let friends drive drunk
- 8** Avoid aggressive drivers— and don't drive aggressively
- 9** Don't tailgate
- 10** Don't speed
- 11** Use turn signals
- 12** Don't drive when fatigued, tired, or drowsy
- 13** Turn right on red only after coming to a full stop
- 14** Do not walk, drive or ride anything near railroad tracks and use caution when approaching a designated highway/rail grade crossing
- 15** Obey all traffic signs and laws

*“Crash”, “collision”, “incident”, and “injury”, should be encouraged as substitutes for the word “accident”.*

*In this way we will focus attention on the causes of crashes, preventing collisions, decreasing incidents, and avoiding injuries.*

## For further information about this effort:

### NHTSA Region I

Transportation Systems Center  
Kendall Square Code 903  
Cambridge, MA 02142  
Fax: 617-494-3646  
States - CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT

### NHTSA Region II

222 Mamaroneck Avenue, Suite 204  
White Plains, NY 10605  
Fax: 914-682-6239  
Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, and States - NY, NJ

### NHTSA Region III

10 South Howard Street  
Suite 4000  
Baltimore, MD 21201  
Fax: 410-962-2770  
States - DE, DC, MD, PA, VA, WV

### NHTSA Region IV

Atlanta Federal Center  
61 Forsyth Street, SW, 17T30  
Atlanta, GA 30303-3104  
Fax: 404-562-3763  
States - AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC, TN

### NHTSA Region V

19900 Governors Drive, Suite 201  
Olympia Fields, IL 60461  
Fax: 708-503-8991  
States - IL, IN, MI, MN, OH, WI

### NHTSA Region VI

819 Taylor Street, Room 8A38  
Fort Worth, TX 76102-6177  
Fax: 817-978-8339  
Native American Nations, and States - AR, LA,  
NM, OK, TX

### NHTSA Region VII

6301 Rockhill Road, Room 100  
Kansas City, MO 64131  
Fax: 816-822-2069  
States - IA, KS, MO, NE

### NHTSA Region VIII

555 Zang Street, Room 430  
Denver, CO 80228  
Fax: 303-969-6294  
States - CO, MT, ND, SD, UT, WY

### NHTSA Region IX

201 Mission Street, Suite 2230  
San Francisco, CA 94105  
Fax: 415-744-2532  
America Samoa, Guam, Mariana Islands, and  
States - AZ, CA, HI, NV

### NHTSA Region X

3140 Jackson Federal Building  
915 Second Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98174  
Fax: 206-220-7651  
States - AK, ID, OR, WA



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration**



**People Saving People**  
<http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov>

## ADDRESS:

US DOT/NHTSA  
Office of Communications and Outreach  
400 7th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20590  
Fax: 202-493-2062