



MTEA NEWS

Montana's First Decade of Graduated Driver Licensing

Montana teen crashes have declined in the ten years since we implemented GDL in 2006. Integrating driver education and parent-supervised practice helps teens develop driving skills, safe habits and crucial behind-the-wheel experience. While the number of teen crashes has declined, some mistakes continue to have serious and fatal consequences, especially driving off the road and driving or riding without seat belt protection.

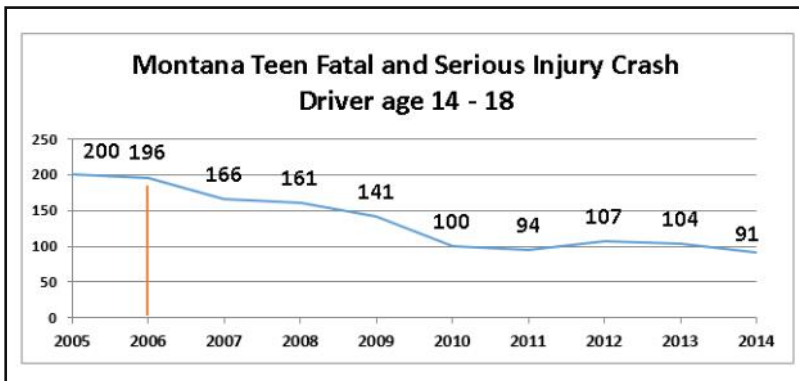


2005-2014 - Montana Drivers - 14 to 18 years old *

35% Ten-year **decrease** in total teen crashes

59% Ten-year **decrease** in teen serious injury

18 Ten-year average **annual** teen crash deaths



Montana Graduated Driver License (GDL) effective July 1, 2006

Distracted driving education was added as part of Montana's GDL with the recognition that there are many and varied things that shift our focus away from driving, along with using cell phones and other hand-held devices.

It's not surprising that recent research found that **young people are more likely to text while driving if their friends do.**

Transportation Research Part F: Traffic Psychology and Behaviour 2016 MD study

* Explore the Montana Department of Transportation's state and county young driver data at: <http://www.mdt.mt.gov/publications/datastats/crashdata.shtml>.

THE GDL STEPS

STEP 1. LEARNER LICENSE

- Pass the knowledge & vision exam.
- Drive only with adult supervision for minimum of 50 hours (10 hours at night) for at least 6 months.
- NO alcohol, drugs or traffic tickets.
- Must wear seat belt.

STEP 2. GDL RESTRICTED LICENSE

- Can drive solo.
- Limits passengers and night driving.
- NO alcohol, drugs or traffic tickets.
- Must wear seat belt.

STEP 3. FULL DRIVER LICENSE

- After one year on the GDL Restricted License with NO alcohol, drugs or traffic violations.

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MTEA News

This newsletter is published by the Montana Traffic Education Association in the fall, winter, and spring. MTEA, PO Box 637, Conrad, MT 59425. Jim Carroll, Executive Secretary, (406) 278-7856. Web: MTEAOnline.org.

MTEA News is mailed to members and active contributor/sustainers. The spring issue is mailed to all traffic educators in Montana to provide annual conference registration information.

To submit an article, photo, or letter to the editor, contact newsletter editor Steffani Grogan at sgrogan@forsyth.k12.mt.us.

Newsletter deadline for articles:
Fall issue—October 1
Winter issue—December 1
Spring issue—March 1

President's Message



Here we are on the downhill slide of the school year, already halfway through the 3rd quarter. I hope the school year is going as smoothly as possible.

Thoughts should now turn to our annual spring conference in Billings, April 24, 25, 26. It is very important to make plans to attend the conference as there will be a tremendous amount of information for teachers of traffic education. Please take advantage of this opportunity to advance your knowledge, meet others in the field, and have a good time.

A lot of work and planning goes into putting on a conference of this quality, and that's why we have one of the best traffic education conferences in the nation. This newsletter includes forms to register for the conference (due **April 15**) and, if you are interested, a pre-conference Google Apps workshop on Saturday, April 23. **Registration for the pre-conference workshop is due April 1, so if you are attending the workshop, please register for the conference at the same time.**

This is *your* professional association. If you've been thinking about getting involved in MTEA, please contact any board member to express your interest and learn how you can help lead this great organization.

It has been a privilege to serve as your President a second time! As President and a class representative it has been very interesting to see how this organization operates and the tireless efforts of everybody involved. It truly is a team effort.

I want to thank everybody on the board who has made this a great experience and good luck to Jerry Olson when he begins serving as your President for 2016-2017.

Have a great rest of the school year and see you in Billings!

Charlie Brown, MTEA President (2015-16)



MTEA is on Facebook!

Search: Montana Traffic Education Association



2016 Montana Traffic Education Conference Traffic Education Roundup April 24-26—Billings, MT

PRE-REGISTER FOR THE CONFERENCE: All attendees must pre-register with MTEA by **April 15, 2016**. The registration fee is \$205 and includes five meals. Walk-in registrations are strongly discouraged. Cancellation policy: Upon written notice of cancellation, \$135 of the \$205 registration is refundable.

BOOK YOUR ROOM: The 2016 conference takes place at the Billings Hotel and Convention Center, 1223 Mallowney Lane, Billings, MT 59101. Call (406) 248-7151 or 1 (800) 537-7286. To get the MTEA group rate, reserve your room by April 8 and use the **Group Code: MTTRA6**. The group rate is \$89.99 plus tax for either a single-king or double-queen room per night.

College Credit or Renewal Units: Educators can earn up to 16 renewal units from the OPI or one college credit from MSU Northern. The cost is \$150 for college credit. Renewal units are available at no cost and can only be used for Montana educator license renewal. Only one option can be chosen.

FIRST-TIME ATTENDEES! First-time conference attendees can put their names in a drawing for a chance to win one of three \$150 scholarships in honor of David Huff, the former Traffic Education Director at the Office of Public Instruction. The MTEA designated the **David Huff Memorial Scholarship** to encourage greater participation by traffic education teachers.

STAY INFORMED: Receive conference updates (presenter bios, agenda, etc.) at MTEAOnline.org, MTEA's Facebook page (search for *Montana Traffic Education Association*) and be sure to sign up for the OPI's Traffic Education *E-News* on the OPI Traffic Education web page.

Pre-Conference Google Workshop with 406Tech in Billings. Saturday, April 23. Earn 6 OPI Renewal Units. Only \$50 for current MTEA members! Register for the workshop by **April 1**—find the registration forms for the conference and the workshop in this issue of MTEA News.

Conference Door Prizes and Silent Auction Gifts

Round up those door prizes and auction items for the spring conference!

Door prizes are given away at just about every break during the conference. MTEA buys door prizes with the proceeds from our 50/50 drawings, but we can always use more.

Consider asking at least one business in your community if they would donate something as a door prize. Bring it with you when you arrive.

Our silent auctions are a huge success because of the great gifts donated and your generous bidding on them. The proceeds raised will help fund the David Huff Scholarship and offset the cost of future door prizes and gifts.

If you would like to donate something to the MTEA silent auction, please bring with you to the conference.

2016 MTEA-OPI Traffic Education Conference

April 24-26, 2016

Billings Hotel and
Convention Center
Billings, MT

*See insert for
conference details,
registration, and hotel
arrangements.*

REGISTER FOR
THE CONFERENCE
BY APRIL 15



Preconference
Google Workshop
**DRIVING INTO
GOOGLE APPS**

Saturday, April 23
9 am to 4 pm

REGISTER FOR
THE WORKSHOP
BY APRIL 1

MTEAOnline.org

Fran's Findings



On a family trip to California recently, I pondered the limits and possibilities of technology and self-driving cars. My smartphone displayed boarding passes and talked us through some complicated routes in an unfamiliar city. I was

astonished to see a sporty silver Tesla pull into a parking lot and then find a restricted parking spot for an electric car charging post (it could take 9 hours to fully charge).

The development of self-driving and all-electric vehicles is shifting the industry from V8 engines to networked computers and lithium ion battery technology. We find elements of innovative engineering in newer vehicles that can increase safety and may decrease crashes, but most of us who continue to drive older pickup trucks and cars will still need driving skills and experience to travel Montana's long and winding backroads and highways.

I am grateful to all the dedicated and creative driver education teachers throughout Montana for keeping students and their families actively involved with driver safety and training. ~ Fran Penner-Ray, OPI Traffic Education Director



Contact Fran Penner-Ray (fpenner-ray@mt.gov) and Patti Borneman (pborneman@mt.gov) by email or call the OPI Traffic Education Office at (406) 444-4432 with any questions about Teen Driver Education in Montana.

<http://www.opi.mt.gov/Programs/DriverEd>

REGISTER NOW—Space is limited! Montana DRIVE Summer Workshops



Teachers and teen drivers are encouraged to attend a one-day advanced driving workshop at the Montana DRIVE track in Lewistown.

The adult workshop costs \$325.

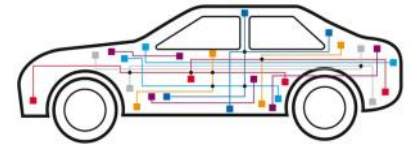
One college credit is available from MSU-Northern for teachers who complete the workshop, stay an extra day to student teach, and write a short paper on the experience. OPI renewal units are also available.

The teen workshop fee is \$285, which is offset by a \$200 scholarship funded by State Farm Insurance for teens who apply. Teen workshops are July 18, 19 and 20.

To view available workshop dates and register, visit MontanaDrive.mt.gov. For more information call OPI at (406) 444-4432 or email montanadrive@mt.gov.

Interconnected networks are the strength of Montana communities, that are

known for small towns, friendly neighbors, and really long streets. Railroad tracks and roads form patterns with nodes and intersections across prairies, mountains and towns. Patterns and connections are becoming computerized with cell towers, satellites, and social media, but the value of spending real time together remains.



This year's MTEA conference theme is **Traffic Education Roundup**. Each year, the conference brings us together to share ideas, stories and solutions to the challenges we face in teaching young drivers to stay safe on all roads. With your help, we have made tremendous skill-building progress with ten years of GDL integrated with professional driver education. We've come far, but still have a long way to go.

I look forward to seeing you soon in Billings at the MTEA **Traffic Education Roundup**.



Montana
Office of Public Instruction
Denise Juneau, State Superintendent

opi.mt.gov

Adapted/Illustrated Montana Driver Manual — Revised and Available!

The **2016 Adapted /Illustrated Driver Manual** has been re-published by the OPI with help from a teacher review committee and support from the Montana Department of Justice—Motor Vehicle Division, and the Montana Department of Transportation.



The Manual can be read online and downloaded as a pdf at the [OPI's website](#). Limited printed copies will be available on request.

All participants at the upcoming Montana Traffic Education Conference will receive one copy. The OPI will also mail copies to Montana public libraries, public school special education programs, and Job Corps offices. The Montana Talking Book Library is recording the manual this year. Multiple copies can be ordered for \$20/copy.

Visit the [OPI website](#) for more information or call the Traffic Education Office at (406) 444-4432.

Distracted Driving Course for Schools and Communities



St. Vincent Hospital in Billings is looking for opportunities to bring their

Distracted Driving Course to schools in Montana. This service is offered free of charge as part their injury prevention mission. They are also willing to assist anyone looking to set up their own program.

To bring the St. Vincent Trauma Services Distracted Driving Course to your school or community, contact Injury Prevention Outreach Coordinator **Eric Fisher** at 406-237-4181 or email: eric.fisher@sclhs.net.

Fisher says, "We believe in this program and we can't stop reinforcing the message."

More information at <http://www.svh-mt.org/services-and-departments/trauma-outreach/distracted-driving-course/>.

ADTSEA Summer Conference & Pacific Northwest Traffic Safety Conference

Two great conferences in one!

Portland, OR—July 17-20, 2016



American Driver and Traffic Safety Education Association

The **2016 ADTSEA** summer conference is **July 17-20** in **Portland, Oregon**. You get two great conferences in one.

The **Pacific Northwest Traffic Safety Conference** will be rolled into the national organization's event.

Check out the ADTSEA website at <http://www.adtsea.org> (click on **Events**) for more details about registration, room rates, and tentative agenda.

If you can attend, the conference will provide you with a wealth of information and an opportunity to network with other professionals from across the United States.

Remember, MTEA has a scholarship program that will provide up to \$300 per person to offset conference costs. Contact Jim Carroll if you are interested. If you can't attend, at least consider joining your national organization.

The American Driver and Traffic Safety Education Association (ADTSEA) is the professional association which represents traffic safety educators throughout the United States and abroad.

MDT Grants to Promote Teen Traffic Safety—Apply by June 1

The Montana Department of Transportation is offering grants to students who develop a project with MBI or FCCLA's **Families Acting for Community Traffic Safety National Program** to promote teen traffic safety in their schools. **Apply by June 1 for up to \$1,000 for project costs.**



Learn more at: http://plan2live.mt.gov/teen_challenge.shtml

SaferRide - NHTSA's New Mobile App

During St Patrick's Day, and throughout the year, NHTSA's new SaferRide app will help keep drunk drivers off our roads by allowing users to call a taxi or a friend and by identifying their location so they can be picked up.



For Android devices, from Google Play store: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.nhtsa.SaferRide>

For Apple devices, from iTunes: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/saferide/id950774008?mt=8>

U DRIVE. U TEXT.



In recognition of **April's National Distracted Driving Awareness Month**, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has planned a number of activities. They are also kicking off its third national highly visible enforcement campaign for distracted driving: **U Drive. U Text. U Pay.**, which is supported by English and Spanish language television, radio, and digital advertising.

<http://www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov/>



Use your QR Reader on a smart phone to scan and quickly access the NHTSA Traffic Safety Marketing site.

CHOP's *TeenDrivingPlan Parent Guide* and more featured at Spring Conference



Researchers at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) Center for Injury Research and Prevention developed a guide for parents to use with new teen drivers. A speaker from CHOP will give a presentation at the Montana Traffic Education Conference this spring. The *Teen Driving Plan Parent Guide* is an interactive resource based on years of research at CHOP and includes a Goal Guide and Logging and Planning Tool to keep everyone on track.

Find excellent resources for parents, teens, educators and researchers at <http://www.teendriversource.org>.

Retirement coming up?

If you retired this year or have plans to retire from education soon and have been an active MTEA member, please send Jim Carroll a note at the MTEA address. **We would like to honor you at the next spring conference.**

Download the Service Recognition/Retirement Award form at MTEAOnline.org and send to Jim Carroll by **April 1** (prior to the MTEA conference).

You can still teach traffic ed!

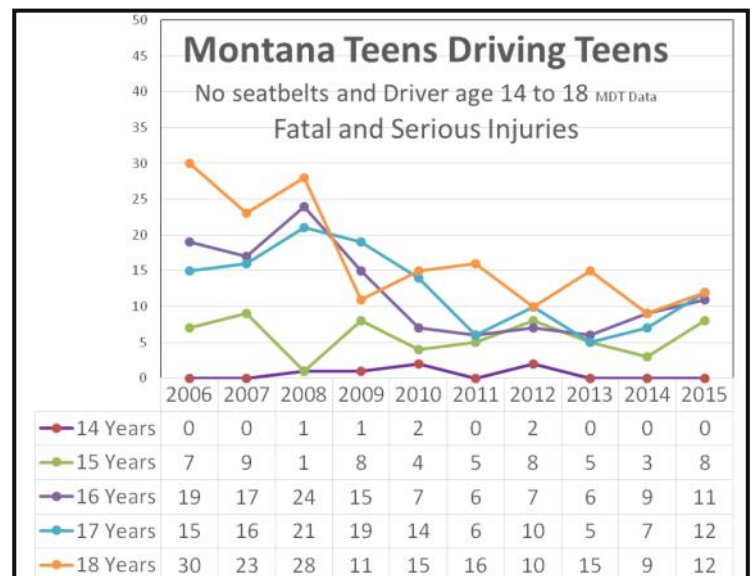
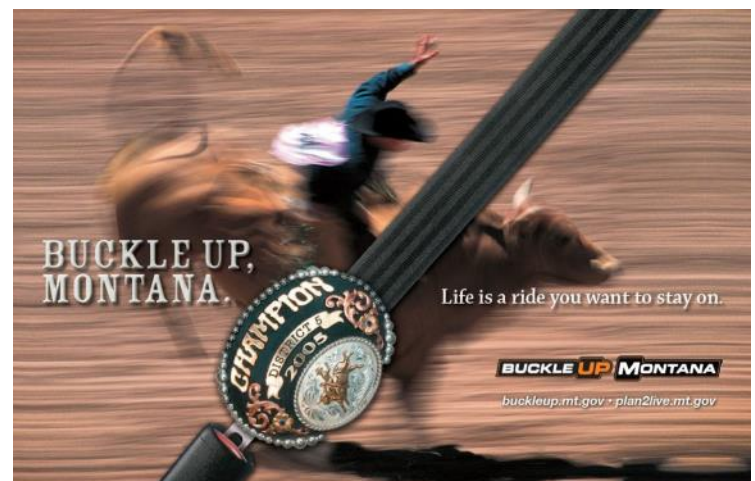
If your retirement is based on a termination date of January 1, 2014 or later, **you must wait 150 calendar days before you can return to work as a working retiree** in a TRS reportable position. The 150 calendar day break begins on the first day following your termination.

To comply with IRS public pension qualification standards, an unmistakable interval of time between a member's retirement and their return to work as a retired member is necessary. The break-in-service requirement applies to all TRS members, including members employed by the University System.

For more information, visit the *Teacher's Retirement System* website: <http://trs.mt.gov/> or call (406) 444-3134 (toll-free: 1-866-600-4045).

LEARN MORE ABOUT RETIREMENT OPTIONS AT THE MONTANA TRAFFIC EDUCATION CONFERENCE THIS SPRING.

Life is a ride you want to stay on.



MDT Data: <http://www.mdt.mt.gov/publications/datastats/crashdata.shtml>

Summary: Executive Board Meeting on January 31, 2016

Here's a summary of the last Executive Board meeting in Helena:

- Minutes, correspondence and financial reports were reviewed.
- A newsletter and web page report was heard.
- A legislative report was heard along with discussion on strategy for the 2017 session.
- An OPI report was heard.
- President-Elect nominations were discussed.
- Planning for the 2016 MTEA conference took place, with various speakers and break-out sessions finalized.
- Door prizes, auction, 50/50, and board assignments were discussed.
- Teacher and Contributor of the Year Awards were discussed.
- The David Huff Scholarship was discussed.
- An insurance report was provided.
- An intersection DVD from Missoula was reviewed.

The next meeting will be Monday, **April 25, 2016** at the conference. Agenda items for the next board meeting should be sent to Charlie Brown, President, or Jim Carroll, Executive Secretary. You can also send a note via the Contact page at MTEAOnline.org.

MTEA Membership Benefits

Encourage a colleague to join MTEA! Elementary, secondary, and college-level educators and administrators and anyone involved with traffic safety are welcome.

Besides friendly colleagues, there are many benefits of membership!

- Annual Traffic Education conference (conference fees are extra) that brings 200 teachers together with experts in the field, renewal units for professional development, and the latest research and resources for traffic educators.
- Three newsletters per year (Fall, Winter, Spring).
- \$5,000 AD&D/life insurance policy.
- Voting on and eligibility for board elections and annual recognition awards.
- A voice in the ongoing improvement of driver education in Montana through policy and legislative actions.

When you attend the annual spring conference, your MTEA membership automatically renews with your conference fee.

Annual membership dues are \$45, payable to MTEA. Learn more about MTEA membership and download a membership form at MTEAOnline.org or use the form provided in this newsletter if you are not attending the spring conference.

Candidates for President-Elect 2017-18

Three candidates will be voted on for President-Elect at the conference. More detailed information will be provided in the conference packet, but here is a brief overview of the candidates:

- **Janette Arps** (Augusta) has taught traffic education and been an MTEA member for the past eleven years. She has served MTEA as a Class C director to the executive board and chairs the silent auction committee. Some of her goals for MTEA are to recruit new teachers and continue to provide a high quality conference.
- **Steffani Grogan** (Forsyth) has taught traffic education and been an MTEA member for the past six years. She has served MTEA as a Class B director to the executive board and is the newsletter editor. Some of her goals for MTEA are to promote statewide traffic safety and continue to offer professional development for TE teachers.
- **Kurtis Koenig** (Ennis) has taught traffic education and been a member of MTEA for the past seven years. He has served MTEA as a member-at-large to the executive board. Some of his goals for MTEA include promoting active involvement by teachers and pursuing legislation for more state funding.



Did you know that MTEA has a big anniversary coming up?

MTEA was founded in 1967. Next year will be our 50th Anniversary! We are almost a half century old. *Tens of thousands* of teen drivers have benefited from the long and dedicated careers of our state's traffic educators. **How do you want to celebrate MTEA's Golden Anniversary?** Send us a note! Share your ideas at the spring conference and help us plan a great celebration!





Montana Traffic Education Association
PO Box 637
Conrad, MT 59425

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Return Service Requested

Register by **April 15** for the 2016 Montana Traffic Education Conference—*Traffic Education Roundup!*



Billings Hotel & Convention Center, Billings MT
April 24-26, 2016

See **inside** for details and register soon!

Register by **April 1** for the Preconference Workshop on Saturday, April 23—9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

\$50 for current MTEA members.

Earn 6 OPI Renewal Units!

You might know how to use Google as a search engine and have a Gmail account, but what are all those other apps like Drive, Docs, Tasks, Keep and Sheets? Learn how to put some of the many Google apps into action.

Interactive, fun and informative! This Saturday workshop takes place at the Lincoln Center in Billings. Led by Certified Google Education Trainer and Technology Integration Specialist Shelly Stanton of **406Tech** in Billings.

Register for the workshop online at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/driving-into-google-apps-workshop-tickets-21829230817> or call (406) 444-4432.

If you are attending the Traffic Education conference AND this workshop, send in both registration forms and payment by April 1.

Driving into  oogle Apps



April 23rd
mteasonline.org/annual-conference