

Safe Driving Teen Monthly Bulletin

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Providing a solid **BASE** for Teen Drivers by Improving Behavior, Attitude, Skills, and Experience

Teens with Drugs Steal Van, Wreck Future

What do you get when you combine a teen driver with drugs, a stolen vehicle, and North Miami police dogs? A painful ending!

A teen and his three passengers apparently stole a van in Dade County. The van was eluding a police officer when the driver ran a red light.

Not only did this infraction cause an accident injuring his passengers, it caused a four-vehicle pile up. In total, eleven people were injured in the collisions.

In an attempt to flee the scene, the uninjured driver ran off on foot. He was eventually caught by police canines and taken to the hospital to treat multiple bites sustained from the dogs. He was then released into police custody and taken to the Juvenile Intake Facility. The teen is currently charged with fleeing and eluding police, possession of cocaine and marijuana, traffic violations, and grand theft auto.

Source *The Miami Herald*

Teen in Alligator Alley Death likely due to no Seatbelt

Justin Rummel, 18, died when he was ejected from his SUV while driving on Alligator Alley on his way home. Alligator Alley runs from Fort Meyers to North Fort Lauderdale. This popular route from the east coast to west coast has raised controversy due to the high number of traffic accidents.

Justin was headed eastbound when his Ford Explorer went off the road, collided with a fence, and then rolled into the canal. The young man was not wearing a seatbelt.

Justin's accident took place near Mile Marker 42, just two miles away from the site of the New Year's Day accident that killed three teens.

Justin was headed home for the weekend to see his parents and girlfriend. He was in his second semester at Florida Gulf Coast University. This 2002 graduate of Killian High will be greatly missed.

Source *The Miami Herald*

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Speeding Teen Motorcyclist without Helmet Crashes; in Critical Condition

We all know how important it is to wear a helmet when riding a motorcycle. Unfortunately, Kippy Doucet failed to take this simple and life saving precaution.

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Motorcycle Accident

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Kippy loved motorcycles. In fact, he was studying to become a motorcycle mechanic in Kissimmee. After head injuries sustained in a weekend accident, no one can be sure that Kippy will ever work or ride on motorcycles again.

Kippy was traveling westbound on Vine Street when witnesses say he was speeding at approximately 70 mph and ran into a Jeep SUV. He sustained massive head injuries from the collision and was not wearing a helmet.

Recently in Florida, the law was changed allowing motorcyclists to decide for themselves whether or not to wear a helmet. Though safety experts advocate the use of helmets as the only head protection available for motorcyclists, many individuals choose not to use them.

Source The Orlando Sentinel

16 year-old Teen Driver Violates Curfew, Killed at 2 AM in T-Bone Crash

Jose Ramiro Velasquez, 20, ran a stop sign shortly before 2 a.m. and plowed into a car. The driver of the vehicle, Kori Lynn Wilson, 16, died at the scene.

Kori was attempting to make a left hand turn onto Sydney Road in Dover, Florida when Jose ran a stop sign and T-boned her vehicle.

Florida's Graduated Licensing system requires teens not to drive past curfew unless traveling to or from work or accompanied by a licensed driver, 21 years of age or older.

After the accident, Jose tried to evade police on foot. He was later caught, arrested, and charged with leaving the scene of an accident involving a fatality.

Source St. Petersburg Times

Pedestrian Killed by Speeding Teen Driver

Chirag Patel, 17, driving a 1995 Nissan ran over Oliver Antonio Ramos after the Tampa Bay Buccaneers' NFC Championship win.

After killing Mr. Ramos, Chirag fled the scene and lost control of his car, crashing into a light pole.

Chirag, who did not receive injuries in either accident, was taken to the Hillsborough County Juvenile Assessment Center and charged with hit and run causing death. He is currently awaiting trial.

Source St. Petersburg Times

Despite Police Warning to Parents, 16 year-old Son Kills Two girls in Crash

Stephen Bromstrup's trial is tentatively scheduled for April 28, 2003. Stephen, 16, killed Sarah Stone, 14, and Alexandra Quaroni, 13, when he ran a stop sign and plowed into the vehicle the girls were riding in. It was reported that he hit the other vehicle at approximately 75 mph in a 25 mph zone. This tragic event, as with most teen traffic accidents, could have been prevented.

One month prior to the collision, Deputy Porcelli warned Stephen and his parents that his behavior behind the wheel could cause his death. Stephen did not perish that day, but two other young teens did.

Stephen's life will be forever affected by his action. He has been charged with four counts of culpable negligence, two counts of vehicular homicide, speeding, violating the right of way, and possession of alcohol.

Deputy Porcelli met Stephen when the teen passed him in the right lane and ran off of the road. After regaining control, Stephen sped off.

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Trial Date Set for Teen

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The Deputy then caught up with Stephen as he was dropping one of his passengers off at home. When the Deputy approached the vehicle, Stephen again sped off.

The Deputy spotted Stephen again a few minutes later at his home. This time, the two spoke and the Deputy later called the teen's parents about the situation that transpired. Due to conflicting stories by Stephen and the Deputy, Stephen's parents did not punish him.

"A month or a month and a half after he gets his driver license, this happens, and he's out driving after curfew. We want to know how his parents disciplined him," said Jennifer's mother.

The night of the deaths, Stephen had been at a party and was out driving past the state of Florida imposed curfew. With a .04 blood alcohol content, Stephen was well over the .02 limit set for those under the age of 21.

Source *The Palm Beach Post*

Dear Parents of Teens...

(The following is a direct excerpt from the Editorial section of the Sun-Sentinel – January 29, 2003.)

Dear parents of teens: Let's make a deal.

How about you making sure that your teen is not driving past curfew, and I will make sure that mine isn't? How about you not providing alcohol or going to bed while teens are still gathered in your home, and I will dutifully stay awake and monitor the beverages served at our home and the condition of the teens and the times they are leaving?

How about if I not let my teen ride as a passenger in a car with another teen until that teen has driven safely for six months and only during legal driving times and only if wearing a seatbelt? I will also forbid my teen to drive another teen until my teen has met the requirements. And you do the same.

How about we mutually agree that it is ridiculous for any teenagers to be driving, sober or drunk, at 3 a.m. and that we mutually agree that we will provide transportation for our own teens, as well as every other teen that needs it, to ensure that these senseless "accidents" stop.

Parents of young children, start educating your children now about your family rules regarding these issues. Teach them that they or their friends can call upon you any time of the night or day and teach them that you will personally come to their rescue and drive them home without punishment or lecture.

Teach them that you expect them to follow the rules. Make sure they know that you don't expect them to be perfect, but that you will not tolerate them being stupid (i.e., driving tired, drunk or drugged).

I promise that my teen will not endanger your teen's life and break your heart. Will you promise me the same?

Lyn Clark
Deerfield Beach

Source *Sun-Sentinel*

18 Year-Old Dies in Single Car Crash

A young woman died shortly before 1 p.m. on February 2, 2003, after her vehicle slammed into a concrete barrier.

The Florida Highway Patrol does not know what caused the accident and is currently looking for witnesses.

Investigators believe the 18 year-old teen veered left, hit the concrete wall, and flipped her vehicle, trapping her under the vehicle. She was pronounced dead shortly after the accident.

Source *Sun-Sentinel*

Teen has afternoon drinks, Kills Mother of two small children

Joshua Latkowski, 19, fled the scene of a rush hour crash that took place on February 7th, at 5:11p.m.

The crash occurred when Joshua's vehicle, a 1995 Mitsubishi, was traveling westbound on Beach Boulevard and crossed the center median. The Mitsubishi struck a 1991 Ford SUV driven by 27 year old Melissa Jane Jones, when she was traveling eastbound on Beach Boulevard.

The collision caused Melissa's SUV to roll over, ejecting her from the vehicle.

Melissa was not wearing a seatbelt. She was pronounced dead at the scene.

Melissa's 9-year-old son, Al D. Prince, was a passenger in the vehicle. Al D. Prince was belted and only received minor injuries. He was taken to Shands Jacksonville Hospital, treated and released.

In addition to Al Daniel Prince, Melissa leaves behind her daughter Jamaya Ann Penn.

Police report that alcohol was a factor in the crash.

Joshua has been charged with fleeing the scene of a fatal accident and driving on a suspended license.

Source Florida's Times Union

Teen House Party with underage drinking likely cause of fatal crash

A house party, where teens gathered and drinking occurred, may have contributed to Brad Kay's death. Brad died as a result of injuries suffered from a single vehicle crash.

Brad and some friends attended a house party on Friday night. Brad and Michael Biggart, 17 accepted a

ride from Jennifer Poist, 16, in her Chevy Blazer.

Jennifer lost control of her SUV, as she traveled south on Federal Highway. The Blazer crashed into a concrete utility pole.

According to witnesses, the SUV rolled, ejecting both Jennifer and Brad from the front seat of the vehicle. Brad's body struck a chain link fence. Jennifer's body was thrown approximately 50 feet down the highway.

It is believed that neither Brad nor Jennifer was wearing a seatbelt. Michael, who blacked out during the crash, was in the backseat of the Blazer and was belted.

They were taken to North Broward Hospital. Brad, 17 died as a result of his injuries. Jennifer was hospitalized in critical condition, and Michael was treated and released.

Many friends of the three have visited the site of the crash on Federal Highway. They are coming to find solace and celebrate Brad's short life.

Brad's friends say he was always happy and smiling. Many have left mementos of Brad including notes, photos, flowers, teddy bears, cigarettes and empty bottles of rum.

"It's like a memorabilia of things [Brad] did," said Tiffany Grube, 16, when asked about the makeshift shrine.

Concern has been raised over the choice of empty bottles of rum as a memento for the roadside memorial. Diana Fetterman, a Broward County resident, cites that underage drinking is illegal, and that alcohol and cars do not go together. She expresses concern that his friends do not seem to comprehend the magnitude of the teens' actions.

According to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, many of the characteristics of teenage crashes include single-vehicle, at night, off the road, speed, and other teen passengers. The dangers of these characteristics are escalated when alcohol is involved.

Source Sun-Sentinel and The Insurance Institute

