

# MoDOT – Highway Safety and Traffic Division

## Teen Traffic Safety Programs

### First Impact

First Impact is an evidence-based, traffic safety parent program targeted to parents and/or guardians of teen drivers in the pre-permit, permit or intermediate stage of licensure. The goal of First Impact is to reduce the number of motor vehicle fatalities, injuries and crashes among teen drivers by increasing parental awareness and enforcement of Missouri's graduated driver license law.

First Impact will provide the tools parents need to be involved in monitoring, coaching and supporting their new teen driver. Ensuring that parents understand the risks and responsibilities associated with driving is essential in preventing teen driving tragedies.

First Impact has trained facilitators statewide and is provided free of charge. Also provided is a parent/teen driving agreement which outlines specific rules that parents and teens agree to follow during the different stages of licensure of the teen.

[Firstimpact.missouri.edu](http://firstimpact.missouri.edu)

**Deana Dothage – dothaged@health.missouri.edu**



### ThinkFirst

The mission of ThinkFirst is to prevent traumatic injuries through education, research and policy. The award-winning programs of ThinkFirst educate people, especially high-risk young people, about their vulnerability to brain and spinal cord injury, common causes of these injuries, and how to prevent them.

ThinkFirst presentations open with a well-trained speaker explaining the basic anatomy of the central nervous system and the permanent physiological changes caused by a brain or spinal cord injury. Students learn the common causes of these injuries, ways to prevent them, and who is most at risk. Also stressed is the fact that although these injuries are permanent, they are often predictable and preventable.

The most effective component of the program features the personal testimony of a ThinkFirst Voices for Injury Prevention (VIP) speaker. VIP speakers are people who have sustained a brain or spinal cord injury, usually due to a motor vehicle crash.

The VIP explains how the injury occurred, describes life before and after the injury, and talks about what it's like to be young and live with a disability.

<https://medicine.missouri.edu/offices-programs/thinkfirst>

**Penny Lorenz-Anderson – lorenzp.health.missouri.edu**



## **TRACTION**

TRACTION – *Teens Taking Action to Prevent Traffic Crashes* is a youth traffic safety leadership training program. The TRACTION program has a three day conference held annually in Branson, Kansas City, Cape Girardeau, and Columbia. The conference promotes safe driving habits for youth and provides students and their adult advisors with the motivation, information, skills, and support necessary to develop a plan of action that addresses unsafe driving habits through events and activities to be implemented within their school and communities the following year. The conference includes 6 workshops, docudrama training, team building, leadership training and action planning. Up to 12 schools - 10 students and 2 advisors per school are able to attend the conference.



TRACTION Reunion and Expo is two day conference held annually in March. All teams who previously attended a TRACTION conference are invited to share new ideas, learn new programs and re-energize themselves to continue highway safety initiatives within their school and community. Each school attending completes a 10 minute presentation on the highway safety initiatives that they have implemented in their school along with pre and post seat belt survey data they have collected throughout the process. Proclamations are awarded to each team and a Team of the Year award is granted to one team with the best highway safety initiatives implemented.

[www.motraction.com](http://www.motraction.com)

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## **Is It Worth It?**

Is It Worth It? University of Missouri Health Care's Injury Prevention and Trauma Outreach Program is now offering 60-90 minute free classroom presentations to high schools. Sessions are both interactive and educational. Topics include: Why you should wear your seatbelt, the dangers of distracted driving, and the dangers of impaired driving.

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## **TyREDD**

TyREDD, (Tyler Raising Education for Drowsy Driving), is an organization that was founded in 2011 after the Warne family lost their oldest Son, Tyler, in a drowsy driving crash. TyREDD's mission is to prevent other families from having to suffer the loss of a loved one's life due to drowsy driving by providing an engaging presentation combining the Warne's family story of loss with the science behind the benefits of sleep. Tyler's Mother Kerrie, and the founder of TyREDD has made it her mission to provide education to prevent drowsy driving deaths through education. Kerrie has partnered with the COO for Clayton Sleep Institute, Matthew Uhles, and together they have developed a very powerful and educational presentation that they give to high school teens, businesses, organizations and parents. TyREDD is currently the only organization in Missouri, with a powerful effective program providing education and awareness for the prevention of drowsy driving to high schools and businesses.



<https://tyredd.org/>

**Kerrie Warne – [kwarne@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kwarne@sbcglobal.net)**

## **Safe and Sober**

Missouri Safe and Sober is designed to give high school and middle school students along with their parents and teachers the information they need to prevent underage drinking. By properly educating students and their parents on the criminal, civil, personal and emotional consequences of underage drinking, the hope is to encourage safe choices both now and as the student's transition toward adulthood.



The Missouri Safe and Sober program is made up of three components:

### **1. High School Program**

The high school program is two-fold. Teens participate in a video based presentation that shows the consequences of underage drinking and how it can change their future forever. Students are then asked to sign a pledge card to remain safe and sober. Many high schools combine the program with other activities, including assemblies and docudramas of accident scenes involving drunk drivers to encourage pledge taking and responsible choices.

### **2. Middle School Program**

The middle school program is two-fold as well. Students are shown a video that is made specifically for their age group. A high school student will then engage the middle school students in a peer-led conversation about alcohol in an attempt dispel the notion that everyone in high school drinks. Students are then asked to sign a pledge card to remain safe and sober.

### **3. Parent Program**

The parent program provides education to parents about the dangers and consequences of underage drinking, including alcohol's effect on the developing brain. Parents are provided information that helps them set limits and expectations for their teens about underage drinking.

<https://www.missourisafeandsober.com>

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## **No-Zone**

The No-Zone refers to the blind spots areas around large commercial vehicles or areas where cars are so close to the truck or bus that the driver's ability to stop or maneuver safely is restricted. There are two great No-Zone presentation options available to you!

### **1. MoDOT Presentation/Information Only**

Students will receive information on No-Zone areas around large trucks, and how to keep themselves and their passengers safe by respecting the load and sharing the road.

[Mark.Biesemeyer@modot.mo.gov](mailto:Mark.Biesemeyer@modot.mo.gov)

### **2. Walmart No-Zone Truck with Presentation**

The Missouri Trucking Association and the American Trucking Association are actively involved in the No-Zone Awareness Program and Walmart has joined their efforts. The Walmart Distribution Center's Transportation department has No-Zone trucks that will come to your area for free and will deliver a No-Zone presentation and allow students to sit in the truck and view the No-Zones as a truck driver would view them while driving down the road.

[Rocky.Griffith@walmart.com](mailto:Rocky.Griffith@walmart.com)

## **Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) / Power of Parents & Power of You(th)**

**Power of Parents:** Power of Parents is part of a total community mobilization to prevent and reduce underage drinking. Parental influence is the most important factor in helping keep young people safe. That's why MADD began an underage drinking prevention initiative, beginning with this community-based parent program. MADD has partnered with Dr. Robert Turrisi from Pennsylvania State University and adapted his handbook model to reach parents of high school and middle school aged students. These research-based parent handbooks are the cornerstone of this community-based program and available to communities through 15 and 30-minute parent workshops facilitated by trained MADD staff and volunteers. These workshops discuss youth brain and emotional development, different parenting styles and their impact on underage drinking, tips for starting and maintaining conversations about alcohol and information about empowering young people to make good decisions about alcohol. Workshops and handbooks are available to schools, religious groups and the community at no charge.

**Power of You(th):** Youth also can play a pivotal role in underage prevention! They can stand up as the leaders who make it "ok" to say no to alcohol. MADD helps youth explore the real, short- and long-term impacts of drinking underage, including how it damages their brains and the long-lasting social consequences through interactive presentations delivered by certified facilitators. MADD also offers tools directly to teens to encourage them to use the power they have to keep themselves and their friends safe. Through this valuable program youth not only learn why it is important to stay away from alcohol and other drugs, but they also learn real life strategies. In many areas, MADD representatives are available to speak at schools, churches, or other community gatherings.

**St. Louis - [Meagan.Bowers@madd.org](mailto:Meagan.Bowers@madd.org)**

**Kansas City – [Victoria.Schmus@madd.org](mailto:Victoria.Schmus@madd.org)**

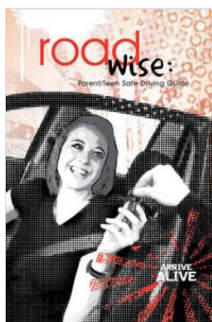
## **Docudramas**

Docudramas are mock traffic crashes which depict the realities and consequences of an alcohol related or distracted driving motor vehicle crash. Police, fire, ambulance, coroners and other emergency personnel are summoned to the mock crash as the scene is played out, and duties are performed as they would in a real life situation. In addition to the staged program, students are given the opportunity to discuss the program in a follow-up session. The purpose of the docudrama is to give young people a close-up look at the ugly truth that goes along with unnecessary, preventable crashes.

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**Mag Roberts – [kirganroberts@hotmail.com](mailto:kirganroberts@hotmail.com)**

## **Roadwise: Parent/Teen Safe Driving Guide**



Roadwise is a FREE guide for parents and teens to use while learning the skill of driving. Roadwise includes information on the Graduated Driver's License Law, mastering driving skills, driving laws, road responsibility, and reading road signs. Roadwise also provides quizzes after each lesson, a driving log and a driving contract between the teen and parent.

**[Kacey.Morgan@modot.mo.gov](mailto:Kacey.Morgan@modot.mo.gov)**

## **Missouri State Highway Patrol**

The Missouri State Highway Patrol is able to provide highway safety educational programs state wide at no cost. Often times, MSHP will allow students to participate in the “Seat Belt Convincer” and “Rollover Simulator.”

Seat Belt Convincer” -- This convincer lets individuals experience the effectiveness of seat belts by simulating an approximate 5 mph head-on collision. The participant is belted in a vehicle seat that then rolls down a ramp. When the seat abruptly stops at the bottom, the rider immediately realizes that only a seat belt can harness the force that would have otherwise hurled them forward into a steel plate.

“Rollover Simulator” -- This device gives the student the opportunity to experience visually the effects of a rollover vehicle traffic crash. The participants observe how seat belts keep the crash dummies inside the vehicle, where the likelihood of serious or fatal injuries is much less.



### **To Schedule a Safety Program in the Following Troops:**

- Troop A -- Sergeant Bill Lowe or Sergeant Andy Bell -- 816-622-0800
- Troop B -- Sergeant Eric Brown -- 660-385-2132
- Troop C -- Trooper Dallas Thompson or Corporal Juston Wheatley -- 636-300-2800
- Troop D – Trooper Sam Carpenter -- 417-895-6868 or Sergeant John H. Lueckenhoff -- 417-359-1500
- Troop E -- Sergeant Clark Parrott -- 573-840-9500
- Troop F -- Sergeant Scott White -- 573-751-1000
- Troop G -- Sergeant Jeff Kinder-- 417-469-3121
- Troop H -- Sergeant Jake Angle-- 816-387-2345
- Troop I -- Sergeant Mike Mitchell-- 573-368-2345
- Drug and Crime Control -- Sergeant Shawn Griggs-- 573-751-3452

