



QUARTERLY TRAFFIC NEWS

2016 Fatal Crashes DOWN

Last year in Davidson County there were **66** fatal crashes resulting in **68** deaths. Fatal crashes were **down 4%** and deaths were **down 9%** from the previous year. While this is definitely something to be pleased about, we need to remember that even **one death is one too many**.

I feel the most crucial way to continue our decline is to educate the public on the causes of these collisions so that as a whole we can change our driving actions. It is a common misconception that every fatal crash occurs because of intoxication. While driving impaired is an enormous concern due to the fact that it is **100% preventable** and usually at least half of fatal crashes involve impairment, the other half of fatalities each year are caused by **SOBER** drivers. During the year 2016, **50%** of fatal crashes in Davidson County involved impairment.

The main contributing factor (**39%**) of fatalities during 2016 was **Failure to Maintain Lane**. How many times have you dropped something on the floorboard and reached down to retrieve it? Ever been eating and not had both hands on the wheel? Been distracted by something or someone in your vehicle? I am sure these are things that all of us have observed or participated in during our daily commutes. Remember—not only are intoxicated drivers crossing into oncoming traffic, but sober drivers may not have all their attention focused on the roadway. In fact, out of the 39% (main contributing factor of failure to maintain lane), **48% were not impaired**.

I cannot write an article about trying to keep fatal crashes down without touching on the use of seatbelts. Every year it is astonishing how many people are ejected from their vehicle or sustain fatal injuries due to the lack of seatbelt usage. In Davidson County during 2016, **54%** of people killed (where a seatbelt was known and would have been applicable) were **not wearing a seatbelt**. This simple lawful action could save numerous lives each year.

I hope next year I can write this article again with once again the crash and death rate even lower. To do this, all of us need to make a conscious effort to be safer on the roads and do everything we can to improve our driving and attention. If you have not made a New Year's resolution or even if you have, why not add one more. While driving, do just that, **DRIVE** nothing else! Let's have (or better yet, Let's make it) a safe 2017!

Teen Driver Awareness Program

During 2011, the Metropolitan Nashville Police Department implemented a free Teen Driver Awareness Program for high school aged teens. The class focuses on impaired driving, distracted driving, and general traffic safety. In the past we have offered this class through way of email or calling to schedule your teen.

Beginning this year we will NOW offer this program on the **Nashville.Gov Events Calendar**. Registration for the classes will open approximately three weeks prior to each class and will close the week of the class. Registration is required. Currently the registration for the February 18th class is OPEN and available at the link below.

<http://www.nashville.gov/News-Media/Calendar-of-Events/Event-Details/ID/6030/begin/2-18-2017/Teen-Driver-Awareness-Program.aspx>

UPCOMING DATES

February 18

March 4th

April 22nd

June 10th

July 29th

August 26th

September 23rd

October 14th

IMPAIRED?

As I reviewed 2016's toxicology results I was astonished at the amount of impairment last year from not only driver operated vehicles, but motorcyclists, pedestrians, and the bicyclist that was hit and killed. Regardless of your mode of transportation even if that involves walking please make sure you are alert enough to make it to your destination safely. With the many options of public transportation, taxis, rideshare options, and sober friends; there is no excuse for driving impaired.

It seems we commonly hear about the dangers of driving impaired but the truth is if you are on or near a roadway at all (walking, bicycling, etc) and you are impaired you are a danger to yourself! Please take precautions and plan before you intend to drink, even if it's only one drink.

FATAL CRASHES 2016

Motorcyclists 50% impaired (9 out of 18)

Bicyclists 100% impaired (1 out of 1)

Pedestrians 44% impaired (7 out of 16)

Drivers 52% impaired (16 out of 31)

buzzed
driving is
drunk
driving



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METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

1417 Murfreesboro Pike
 Nashville, TN 37129

Phone: (615) 862-7738
 Fax: (615) 880-2894
 E-mail: Erika.Bowden@nashville.gov

Special Operations Division: Traffic Section



The Special Operations Division: Traffic Section of the Metropolitan Nashville Police Department strives to make our streets the safest streets in the country for traveling and local motorists. One way we are able to improve the safety of our roadways is through education and information sharing. If you have a topic you need information on, chances are someone else does too. Feel free to e-mail me at Erika.Bowden@nashville.gov with your traffic related questions. I will answer your questions and may also include a section covering that topic in future newsletters. You can now also find us on facebook under Metro-Nashville Police Department Traffic Section.



Join Us on Facebook: Metro-Nashville Police Department Traffic Section
www.facebook.com



CRIME STOPPERS

Crime Stoppers - 862-7463 - Crime Stoppers can refer you to a specialized crime unit if needed (i.e. - Gang Unit, Vice, Gambling and Prostitution, etc.)
 Traffic/ Hit & Run - 862-7713 & 862-7738
 You can also provide tips and witness information at our website :
<http://www.police.nashville.org/>
 Call 74-CRIME OR
 Text the word CASH and your message to Crimes (274637)
ALL THREE WAYS ARE ANONYMOUS AND SECURE.