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Cover

Our National Park System is comprised of 423 national park sites and spans more than 84 million acres. Part of the NPS, Catoctin Mountain Park in north-central Maryland offers hiking trails, camping and lodging, cross country skiing, horseback riding, rock climbing, and more - with many areas accessible by wheelchair. More on page 16.

On The Go

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President's Note

"...Who's at fault?..."

Peter J. Armstrong
President/CEO

Liar, Liar, Pants on Fire

Well, the deception may not demand a punishment as severe as setting someone's trousers ablaze, but it is something that needs to be addressed.

Did you hear about the woman years ago who learned about cruise control? The new (then) technology intrigued her and she was quite excited to purchase a new conversion van that featured the device. She set off on a long-awaited vacation trip, happily setting the cruise control as she "hit the highway". Deciding that she wanted a cold drink to enjoy as she drove merrily down the pike, she rose, walked back to the refrigerator, and was shocked when she, her soda and the whole conversion van ended up somewhere off the road.

Who's at fault? The consumer, for not making an effort to fully understand her vehicle's technology and its functions? Or the dealer, for not making sure that the consumer had a good understanding of their new vehicle and would be able to use the technology safely?

Vehicle technology can certainly be beneficial. It can lower our risk as motorists and help us be safer on the roadway. It can even do some things better than we can. But if the user doesn't have the correct understanding about what vehicle tech can or cannot do, disaster can be the result. Often the misunderstanding is the direct result of misleading jargon related to the technology.

AAA has been a leading advocate for the importance of common-sense naming of vehicle technology, using research from both the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety and the AAA Automotive Engineering team, with support from industry partners like Consumer Reports, JD Power and SAE. System branding such as Tesla's *Autopilot* can give drivers the false sense that the vehicle is capable of driving itself, which can have dangerous consequences.

The issue has caught the attention of other agen-

cies as well. There is a new push for legislation in California that hopes to help.

The California Department of Motor Vehicles is seeking legal action against Tesla for deceptive marketing, citing that the automaker's proclaimed "Fully Self Driving" feature is neither self-driving nor fully automated. The case has the backing of many motorist safety agencies, acknowledging the strong need to help consumers better understand current and future auto tech. This is especially important as automakers vie for consumer attention - and dollars - by using wide-ranging terms to describe similar features.

Regardless of the outcome in California, consumers are encouraged to ask questions about the technology that comes with their newly purchased vehicles. If you don't understand how something works, make sure you don't try using it until you get assistance. I don't think they've added a button for an ejection seat yet, but you certainly don't want to learn about it the hard way.



Club Update



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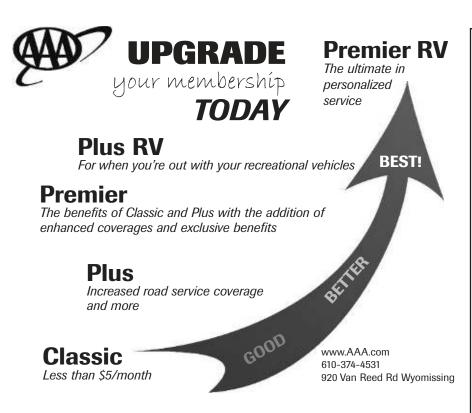




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braking bad

AAA research reveals AEB is better at spotting stationary vehicles, but speed poses challenges

Touted as lifesaving, crash-preventing tech, Automatic Emergency Braking (AEB) is standard equipment in most new cars sold in the United States. Over the years, AEB has successfully stemmed rear-end crashes, which often result in injuries, property damage, and even fatalities. But AAA wanted to know if the latest generation of AEB can handle higher speeds and detect moving vehicles in its path at intersections. It struggled with the former and failed with the latter.

"Automatic Emergency Braking does well at tackling the limited task it was designed to do. Unfortunately, that task was drawn up years ago, and regulator's slow-speed crash standards haven't evolved," said Greg Brannon, director of AAA's automotive engineering and industry relations. "Testing requirements for this technology, or any vehicle safety system for that matter, must be updated to handle faster, more realistic speeds and scenarios with the greatest safety benefit for drivers."

The Issue

AEB uses forward-facing cameras and other sensors to automatically tell the car to apply the brakes when a crash is imminent. It has reduced rear-end crashes at slower speeds, and the technology has been refined over the years with upgraded hardware and software. But two of the most common deadly crashes at intersections are T-bones and left turns in front of oncoming vehicles. From 2016 to 2020, these two types accounted for 39.2% of total fatalities in crashes involving two passenger vehicles during which the striking vehicle did not lose traction or leave the roadway before the collision.

What AAA Tested

 AEB rear-end crash performance when encountering a stationary vehicle at speeds of 30 and 40 mph (cur-



rently mandated testing speeds are 12 and 25 mph)

MAT

• AEB performance when encountering moving vehicles in collision scenarios involving an intersection - Tbone and unprotected left turn (test vehicle turning left in front of an oncoming car)

The Results

- At 30 mph, AEB prevented a rear-end collision for 17 of 20 test runs, or 85%. For the test runs that resulted in a crash, the impact speed was reduced by 86%.
- But at 40 mph, AEB only prevented a rear-end crash in 6 of 20 test runs, or 30%. For test runs that resulted in a crash, the impact speed was reduced by 62%.
- In both the T-bone and left-turn in front of an oncoming vehicle tests, crashes occurred 100% of the time. AEB failed to alert the driver, slow the vehicle's speed and avoid the crash.

AEB is common in vehicles, regardless of price. Starting on September 1, 2022, 20 automakers representing more than 99% of the US market pledged to make AEB standard equipment on all their new vehicles.

What's Next

AAA strongly urges automakers and regulatory agen-

Effectiveness of Automatic Emergency Braking

Why did AAA test Automatic Emergency Braking (AEB)?

Twenty automakers have committed to including AEB as standard equipment in their vehicles, representing more than 99% of the U.S. automotive market. As these systems become commonplace, it is essential to understand their ability to prevent or mitigate various common collisions.

How did AAA decide which vehicles to test?

AAA utilized sales data from 2021 to identify the most popular vehicles. We selected various popular models representing domestic and import manufacturers for testing.

In what conditions were the vehicles tested?

Vehicles were tested in daylight conditions and not evaluated while facing direct sunlight.

Why did AAA choose to conduct testing at higher speeds than what is mandated?

Crash data analysis from 2016 through 2020 found that most injuries and fatalities occur at higher speeds. AAA believes it is important to evaluate systems under these conditions to understand their potential in the real world.

What were the most promising and most concerning findings of the research?

The tested systems performed well in rear-end test scenarios, with either crash prevention or significant speed reduction for most test runs. However, the systems tested were utterly ineffective with scenarios involving an intersection and at higher speeds.

How many vehicles today are equipped with AEB?

83% of 2022 model year vehicles sold in the U.S. are equipped with AEB as standard equipment.

How has AEB performed up to now?

According to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS), vehicles equipped with AEB exhibited a 50% decrease in police-reported rear-end crashes compared to non-equipped vehicles. These figures account for police-reported rear-end crashes with or without injury in 22 states during 2010 – 2015 for six makes.

Based on this research, what is AAA's recommendation to carmakers and federal regulators?

System design and validation criteria should account for crash scenarios where injuries and fatalities most commonly occur, including those involving an intersection. AAA continues to collaborate with the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) and Consumer Reports to apply additional pressure on regulators to make changes to testing protocols and standards. Each of these major safety organizations is focused on continually improving automotive safety, and by collaborating, we amplify that vital message. IIHS and Consumer Reports both plan to make changes to testing and rating systems for AEB soon.

What should drivers do to stay safe if their vehicles are equipped with AEB?

AEB should be looked at as a system of last resort. In other words, do not rely on AEB to prevent collisions, and remain aware of your surroundings.

How is this new research different from previous AEB testing performed by AAA?

AAA testing in 2015 focused on front-to-rear crash scenarios, where both vehicles were facing or traveling in the same direction.

cies to focus on system design and test protocols to better handle the types of crashes when injuries and fatalities commonly occur.

Automakers must improve AEB systems to assist drivers in intersection-based crash scenarios. Automakers should include AEB systems as standard equipment on all their makes and models.

Drivers must recognize an AEB system's limitations and remain engaged when behind the wheel.

Methodology

AAA selected four vehicles for testing, choosing two of each driver monitoring design type, camera-equipped and input from the steering wheel. AAA does not rate vehicle performance. The vehicles were as follows:

- 2022 Chevrolet Equinox LT with "Chevy Safety Assist"
- 2022 Ford Explorer XLT with "Pre-Collision Assist with Automatic Emergency Braking"
 - 2022 Honda CR-V Touring with "Honda Sensing"
 - 2022 Toyota RAV4 LE with "Toyota Sensing"

The vehicles were procured directly from the manufacturer or specialty rental fleets. To ensure the proper functioning of the AEB system, all vehicles were serviced at dealerships. Please refer to the full report for methodology details, including specific testing equipment and test track characteristics, available at newsroom.AAA.com.

Mean Streets: Urban/Rural Traffic Deaths

According to research from the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety, more people are now killed on the nation's city streets than on rural roads, with speed playing a critical factor.

The problem: Between 2010 and 2019, fatalities in urban areas surged 34%, while those in rural areas fell 10%. Urban fatalities surpassed those in rural areas in 2016; by 2019, 19,595 people were killed in urban locations compared to 16,340 in the countryside. The upward trend in urban crash projections will rise as populations and vehicle miles traveled in urban areas increase.

"Many urban streets in metropolitan areas are busier, with a mix of road users such as drivers, pedestrians, and bicyclists," said Dr. David Yang, executive director of the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety. "Add in speed, and these locations grow more dangerous. When navigating urban streets, every user needs to be careful, pay attention to road conditions and follow traffic laws."

This recent change is notable because, according to Federal Highway Administration statistics, more than 70% of the 4 million miles of public-access roads in the

United States are rural. Yet while speeding occurs on all roads, urban roads and streets account for a disproportionate number of speeding-related fatalities. The AAA Foundation study examines characteristics of deaths that happened on urban non-limited access roadways (not freeways, expressways, or interstates) from 2010 to 2019.

Why It's Important: According to new NHTSA estimates, 9,560 people died in motor vehicle traffic crashes in the first quarter of 2022, a 7% increase compared to last year. It is the highest number of firstquarter fatalities since 2002. NHTSA says 42,915 people died in traffic crashes last year, with speed-related crash fatalities rising by 5%. This research provides insights needed to inform the development of solutions to address the persistent speeding problem. It is important to understand the characteristics of both the roadways, the motorists and the crashes.

AAA urges transportation engineers and decision-makers to con-

sider speed management and prioritize safety when setting speed limits. This is critical for urban roads and streets where vehicles and vulnerable road users mix. AAA strongly supports adopting The Safe System Approach (SSA) to roadway safety. The SSA uses current effective countermeasures to create multiple layers of protection for transportation network users, rather than responding only after evidence of a specific safety problem.

Methodology

The Foundation used data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS), a national census of fatal traffic crashes. Fatalities were considered speeding-related if any vehicle involved in the crash was reported to have exceeded the posted speed limit, drove too fast for conditions, or was racing.

Read the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety report, Traffic Fatalities on Urban Roads and Streets in Relation to Speed Limits and Speeding, United States, 2010-2019, at newsroom.AAA.com.

 Collisions with pedestrians/bicyclists accounted for the largest proportion of all fatalities regardless of speed on urban roads and streets over the study period (29%)



 Fatalities of occupants in non-speeding vehicles tended to occur on higher-speed roads, whereas fatalities of pedestrians/bicyclists tended to occur on lower-speed roads.



 Speeding-related fatalities on non-limited access roadways in urban areas (e.g., arterials, collectors, local streets) increased from 2010 to 2019.



 Nearly half of such fatalities occurred on roads with speed limits of 35 mph or lower.



About one in five (20%) occurred in T-bone collisions.



 Nearly one-third of people killed on roads with speed limits of 25 mph or lower were victims of speeding-related crashes.



 Most victims of speeding-related crashes were speeders who tended to be male and/or young adults.



Are You Declaring An Emergency?

Dear Ask Ed,

We're teaching our teenager how to drive, and the subject of when to use the emergency flashers came up. We want to pass on the correct advice can you help?

Grateful Mom and Dad

Thanks for writing in, Mom and Dad. This is a different kind of question than what I'm usually asked, but as a long-time instructor of the PennDOT Safety Inspector Certification Course, I'm happy to help you pass on the correct and appropriate use of a vehicle's hazard lights.

Whether you call them "emergency flashers" or "hazard lights", the name tells you that their use is to be reserved for crisis situations.

According to the Pennsylvania Vehicle Code, Title 75, Chapter 43, § 4305 Vehicular hazard signal lamps "(a) General rule...Simultaneous flashing of the two front and two rear signal lamps shall indicate a vehicular traffic hazard. The driver of a motor vehicle equipped with simultaneous flashing signals shall use the signals when the vehicle is stopped or disabled on a highway, except when the vehicle is stopped in compliance with a trafficcontrol device or when legally parked."

This means that you are not to use the hazard lights if you are stopped because you're at a red light or a stop sign, nor should you use them if you are legally parked whether it is on a parking lot, curbside, in a driveway or other such place.



The Code continues...

"Drivers of other vehicles shall exercise extraordinary care in approaching, overtaking and passing a vehicle displaying vehicular hazard warning signals." Since the emergency flashers would indicate that a vehicle is possibly stopped - no longer moving - motorists approach-



ing a vehicle with its hazards on would proceed to carefully go around it using an adjacent lane.

§ 4305 (c) does provide for a second use of the hazards - when under power but moving below the minimum speed limit. If a vehicle is not maintaining at least the posted minimum speed limit, it is considered a hazard to other motorists and should display the emergency flashers. The driver should use good sense in this case is it safer to drive slowly and perhaps cause an approaching driver to make a sudden change in his speed/position in order to avoid a rear-end collision, or should the driver safely pull over and allow traffic to flow normally? Too often I see motorists driving down the road with their hazard lights flashing away. Sometimes it's during a rain storm, sometimes it is after a snowfall. And sometimes the reason isn't clear.

If a driver finds him or herself driving under conditions that rob them of visibility or traction - extreme fog, torrential downpour or whiteout blizzard, for instance - the correct thing to do is pull over as carefully as possible to the side of the road, as far from the roadway as safely possible. That is the time to turn on your hazard lights so approaching drivers don't follow your brake lights and run into the back of your stopped vehicle.

Thanks for the opportunity to address your concern. My best to you and the new driver in your family. Don't forget to check out AAA's How To Drive Online program at pennsylvania.aaadriverprogram.com, and stop by the Wyomissing office for a free Novice Driver car magnet.

Happy motoring!

Ed

Contact Ask Ed with your automotive questions: AskEd@aaardgberks.com or write to Ask Ed, AAA, 920 Van Reed Road, Wyomissing, PA 19610.

Travel News

Best Time to Book: Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is nearly upon us. Have you made your out-of-town plans yet?

When booking flights, most people purchase tickets about two months ahead of time. But those who are willing to wait - or those who just plain procrastinate - could end up scoring cheaper prices! The downside of waiting is limited inventory including sold out preferred flight times/nonstop flights.

AAA booking data shows that most travelers who book in September or October for Thanksgiving travel pay an average ticket price of \$501-\$543. Those who chance it and book one to two weeks before the holiday pay less - \$474 on average. But don't wait too long! Travelers who wait until Thanksgiving week end up paying about the same as those who booked in September/October.

When selecting a day of the week to travel, AAA data shows that Tuesday is the busiest (used to be Wednesday), and Sunday is the most expensive. Flying on Monday may save you a couple of bucks, but those who travel on Thanksgiving Day save the most money and avoid the travel rush.

Where are people going to celebrate Turkey Day? Here's the Top Ten Domestic Destinations:

- 1. Orlando, FL
- 2. New York, NY
- 3. Anaheim, CA
- 4. Fort Lauderdale, FL
- 5. Atlanta, GA
- 6. Phoenix, AZ
- 7. Dallas/Fort Worth, TX
- 8. Las Vegas, NV
- 9. Charlotte, NC
- 10. Maui, HI



PA Turnpike Commission OK's Toll Increase

If you travel the Pennsylvania Turnpike, be prepared to dip a little deeper into your pocket for the privilege and convenience.

Effective January 8, 2023 at 12:01a.m., the most-common toll for passenger vehicles will increase from \$1.70 to \$1.80 for E-ZPass users. No E-ZPass? The most-common charge to Toll By Plate customers driving passenger vehicles will increase to \$4.40 - up from \$4.10. The most-common toll for Class 5 tractor trailers with E-ZPass will go up to \$14.40 from the current \$13.70 and from \$28 to \$29.40 for Toll By Plate.

Clearly, E-ZPass users save the most compared to Toll By Plate rates, saving nearly 60%. The PA Turnpike bulletin announcing the rate increase mentioned that non-E-ZPass customers can download the PA TOLL PAY smartphone app. Once the app is created, users will receive 15% savings

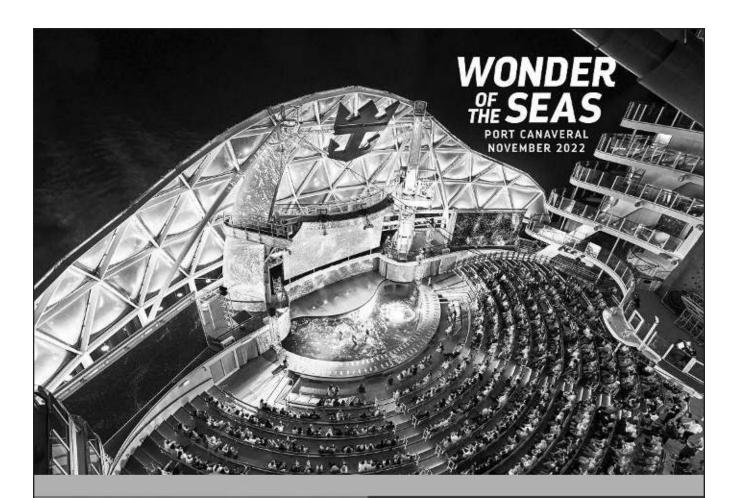
on monthly Toll By Plate invoices. You can get the details by visiting www.paturnpike.com/toll-by-plate/patoll-pay-app.

Don't have a bank account or just prefer to pay cash for tolls? The app includes a way to pay by cash. To pay in cash, customers select the "pay" option when accessing their account online or via the PA TOLL PAY app. A list of nearby retailers will display. The customer must generate a pay slip - which includes a \$1.50 fee - before visiting a store to pay cash.

"The PTC has been forced to increase tolls annually through the foreseeable future to meet its financial obligations under Act 44 of 2007", said PTC CEO Mark Compton. "It's worth noting that, even with these ongoing annual increases, our per-mile toll rate continues to be below the midline compared with rates of other U.S. tolling agencies."

Act 44 of 2007 required the PA Turnpike to transfer hundreds of millions of dollars annually to the Commonwealth to support transportation projects statewide. The PTC began making Act 44 payments to PennDOT in August 2007 and has increased tolls annually since 2009, providing \$8 billion in toll-backed funding to PennDOT in 15 years.





Everything is a big deal on the boldest and biggest ship in the world, Wonder of the SeasSM, sailing from Orlando this November. Adrenaline chasers can plunge 10 stories down the tallest slide at sea, Ultimate AbyssSM. Wonder PlayscapeSM takes kids' playtime to the next level. For homespun brunch, nothing compares to The Mason JarSM Southern Restaurant & Bar. And the new Vue BarSM serves up cocktails alongside picture-perfect panoramas that are prime for quality couple time. The Space Coast is about to become your clients' launching point for out-of-this-world adventures to sun-kissed Caribbean shores — plus our private island, Perfect Day at CocoCay. Only on Royal Caribbean[®].

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addressing drowsy driving

New AAA report presents the results of a literature review and discussions with experts to summarize the current state of knowledge on the effectiveness of countermeasures intended to reduce drowsy driving and the associated motor vehicle crashes, injuries and deaths.

In today's fast-paced society, many of us could be tempted to drive while drowsy. Indeed, AAA's annual *Traffic* Safety Culture Index surveys find that, although drivers acknowledge that drowsy driving is dangerous, it unfortunately is also all too common.

Driving while drowsy presents substantial risks to our own safety as well as the safety of other people with whom we share the road. The AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety's previous research has found that drowsy driving may be a factor in as many as one in five crashes that result in a death—far higher than corre-

sponding government statistics. In light of this, the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety strives to find ways to reduce the prevalence and the impact of drowsy driving.

For such an important message, it is important to identify strategies that are effective in communicating with and are understood by the motoring public. What is the current state of knowledge among drivers on how to avoid drowsy driving and the danger it poses to roadway users?

The AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety report, Countermeasures to Reduce Drowsy Driving: Results of a Literature Review and Discussions with Experts, September 2022, offers insights into countermeasures already known to work, popular countermeasures known to be ineffective, as well as topics still in need of additional research. The information should be of interest to researchers, practitioners such as healthcare providers and risk managers, as well



as other health and safety stakeholders.

Key Findings

The results of this research highlight the complexity of reducing drowsy driving and suggest the following conclusions:

- There is evidence that obtaining sufficient sleep, napping, and consuming caffeine reduce the risk of drowsy driving. Numerous other behavioral countermeasures were identified, but there is insufficient or mixed evidence regarding their effectiveness.
- There is evidence that advanced driver assistance systems, such as forward collision warning/automatic emergency braking and lane departure warning/lane keeping assistance, reduce rates of crashes in general, however, more research is needed to determine their effectiveness

with respect to drowsy driving crashes specifically. There is insufficient or mixed evidence of the effectiveness of other types of technology-based countermeasures.

- Infrastructure-based countermeasures can prevent or mitigate the severity of crashes, but they are not specifically designed to keep drivers alert or to reverse drowsiness. There is evidence that shoulder and centerline rumble strips are highly effective in reducing crash rates overall, though more research is needed on their effectiveness with respect to drowsy driving crashes specifically.
- Education is important for at-risk populations, but it is insufficient to reduce drowsy driving by itself and must be combined with other countermeasures.
- Sleep disorders contribute to drowsy driving. Treatments are available for sleep disorders, though more research is needed to determine their effects on drowsy driving.
- Policy countermeasures including drowsy driving laws as well as workplace policies require further research to examine their effectiveness in preventing drowsy driving.

The literature review and discussions with experts also identified three key crosscutting issues for future research and action:

- Many countermeasures have been examined in laboratory settings and appear promising. However, drivers may react to drowsiness or use the countermeasure differently in real-world situations. There is a need for research in naturalistic settings or with real-world data to evaluate their effectiveness and to understand how they may interact with various contextual factors.
- Reliable and informative data are critical to understanding the prevalence of drowsy driving, educating the public, and evaluating countermeasures. However, driver drowsiness is difficult to measure, especially after a crash. There is a need for improved data on drowsy driving.
- Disclosing drowsiness or medical conditions that cause drowsiness is often stigmatized in the workplace. This stigma is a barrier to addressing drowsy driving. Efforts are needed to combat drowsiness-related stigma in the workplace.

Methodology

Researchers from NORC at the University of Chicago and the National Advanced Driving Simulator at the University of Iowa performed a literature review and environmental scan, convened a panel of subject matter experts, and interviewed several additional experts to documents the current state of knowledge regarding drowsy driving countermeasures and their effectiveness.

The literature review searched the University of Chicago online library system and the Transport Research International Documentation integrated database for research on drowsy driving published in English between 2010 and 2020 that pertained to drowsy driving countermeasures. The environmental scan used Google, Google Scholar, and organizational websites to identify projects, white papers, toolkits, and unpublished papers focused on drowsy driving countermeasures.

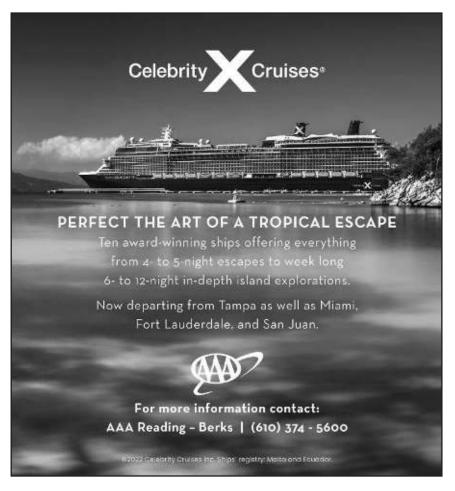
A technical expert panel was convened in April 2021 to review and discuss results of the literature review and environmental scan as well as to identify additional resources, research needs, and implementation issues related to drowsy driving countermeasures. Panelists included seven researchers and practitioners representing government, academia, and nonprofit research and advocacy organizations, with expertise in drowsy driving, traffic safety, and sleep science. Nine additional experts were also interviewed individually.

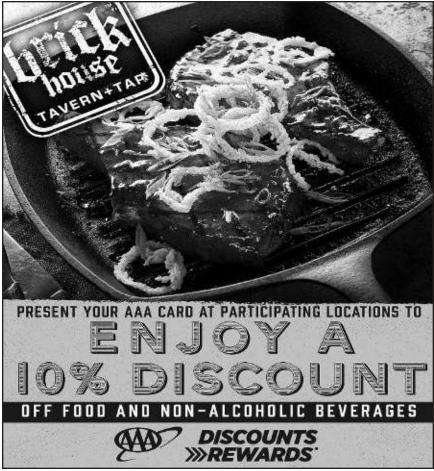
The researchers ultimately identified 152 articles or reports with information about 207 countermeasure evaluations related to drowsy driving. Key details of relevant references were entered into a database. The accompanying technical report summarizes the findings of the literature review as well as key points raised in the technical expert panel meeting and interviews.



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Christine's Law In Effect

Named after Christine Lambert, Act 90 of 2022 came into effect on September 11, 2022 and requires drivers to remove ice or snow from their vehicles within 24 hours following heavy snow or ice storms. "Christine's Law" was signed by Governor Wolf on July 11, 2022.

The law was proposed by Senator Lisa Boscola as a matter of public safety to prevent tragedies such as the one that befell Christine Lambert of Palmer Township on December 25, 2005. Ms. Lambert perished when a large piece of ice fell from a passing box truck and broke through her vehicle's windshield.

"I have been fighting on behalf of the Lamberts to get Christine's Law on the books ever since that tragic accident over a decade and a half ago," Boscola said.

Severe weather can be both frightening and dangerous. Winter storms, bad weather and sloppy road conditions are a factor in nearly half a million crashes and more than 2,000 road deaths every winter, according to the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety. Drivers should know and follow the safety rules for dealing with winter road emergencies. AAA urges drivers to be cautious while driving in adverse weather.



Come Join Us

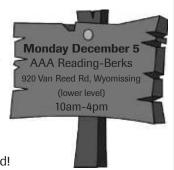
for our AAA Driver Safety Programs

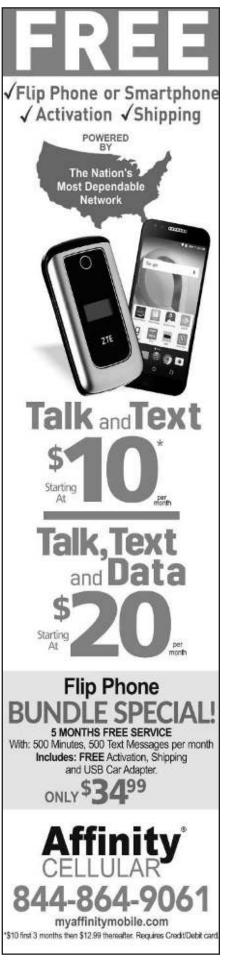
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Learn more about the wide variety of AAA Driver Safety programs and information available for drivers of all ages.

- AAA Dare to Prepare Parents/teens
- AAA RoadWise Driver Senior Insurance discount
- How To Drive Online Novice driver education
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- Invite us to speak to your group!

Call 484-987-7025 for details! No RSVP required!





Destinations& Diversions

Blue Ridge Beauty Only a Short Drive Away

If you love being outdoors, it's never too early to begin planning your next fair-weather outing. Here's a worthy addition to your list: Catoctin Mountain, Thurmont, Maryland.

Part of the Appalachian Mountain range, Catoctin Mountain has much to offer lovers of the out-of-doors. Just ask any of the U.S. Presidents who enjoy the privacy and seclusion of Camp David, nestled in the mountain's scenic beauty.

An easy drive of two to two and a half hours from Reading (via I-76 W and US-15 S or I-76 W and I-81S), Catoctin Mountain has something every member of the family will appreciate regardless of age or ability - even



Fido (see the rules for pets in the park nps.gov/cato/planyourvisit/pets.htm).

Awaiting the outdoorsman are twenty-five miles of hiking trails, trout fishing streams, camping, and horseback riding. At the writing of this article, there was no entrance fee to Catoctin Mountain Park.

Stop by the Visitor Center before heading to the trails to learn about the history of the park and the indigenous flora and fauna. It might not be a bad idea to get a map, too - "just in case". To help plan your hike, trail guides are available to view, print or download at nps.gov/cato/planyourvisit/maps.

Before entering the center, check out the original sign for the presidential retreat Hi-Catoctin, renamed Camp David by President Dwight D. Eisenhower. Once inside, you can listen to President Franklin D. Roosevelt deliver a fireside chat and try your hand at building a log cabin.

The Visitor Center is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. March through November, and 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. December through February. Hiking trails have difficulty ratings from easy to strenuous. Scenic vistas include Chimney Rock, Hog Rock, Thurmont Vista, and the Blue Ridge Summit Overlook. For an out-ofthe-ordinary hike destination, try the Blue Blazes Whiskey Still Trail. Learn about what happened at the Blue Blazes Still on July 31, 1929 when it was raided by Deputy Sheriff Clyde L. Hauver: murder, a man-hunt, arson, a love triangle, rumors, and a two-timing informant.

A must-see while on Catoctin Mountain is Cunningham Falls State Park. The park is divided into two separate areas - the William Houck Area and the Manor Area - each with its own drive-to-worthy attributes.

The William Houck Area, three miles west of Thurmont, MD on Route 77, has the lake area, falls and camping area. Camp sites and camper cabins are available April-October. Visitors can swim, camp, hike, fish and canoe there.

Visitors to the Manor Area off Route 15, three miles south of Thurmont, can

experience the Scales and Tales Aviary and the historic Catoctin Iron Furnace. Camping is also available at the Manor Area.

A unique feature of the Catoctin Mountain Park is the availability to borrow color-correction eyeglasses. According to the park website, these specialized color-correction eyeglasses filter colors in a way that allows a person who has red or green color weakness or red or green colorblindness to see those color hues. They will be loaned to visitors for day use during visitor center operating hours and are available in adult and children's sizes. The website disclaimer says that the success of color correction varies from person to person.

The Visitor Center is wheelchair accessible, as are the Spicebush Trail, Chestnut Picnic Area, Owen's Creek Camping Area, Sawmill exhibit, Blacksmith Shop, and Camp Greentop and Camp Round Meadow. For specific information on additional park accessibility, call (301) 271-3140.

Volunteer opportunities include positions at the Visitor Center, as campground hosts, trail stewards and service projects (attention Eagle Scout candidates!). Occasionally there is also a need for individuals with special skills - fly-tying, blacksmithing, digital photography, oral history tape transcribing, and others. Interested parties can get more information by calling (301) 663-9388 or by emailing Phillip_Greenwalt@nps.gov, Ron_Harvey@nps.gov, Rachel_Henson@partner.nps.gov.



NTSB Call to Fight Drunk Driving

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) recommends that all new vehicles sold in the U.S. have alcohol monitoring systems that can stop an intoxicated person from driving. If enacted by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), this action could help lower the number of alcohol-related crashes, one of the most significant causes of highway deaths in the U.S.

"This is an exciting announcement by the NTSB and a true show of leadership by NTSB Chair Jennifer Homendy to move the nation closer to zero traffic deaths," said Jake Nelson, AAA's director of traffic safety and advocacy. "AAA supports using technology to make the 'car the cure' for impaired driving."

Since 2000, more than 230,000 peo-

ple have lost their lives in crashes involving alcohol-impaired drivers, according to NHTSA. In 2020, an estimated 11,654 fatalities occurred in alcohol-impaired crashes alone. This number represented 30% of all traffic fatalities that year and a 14% increase over 2019.

The recommendations include:

- Require passive vehicle-integrated alcohol impairment detection systems, advanced driver monitoring systems, or a combination of the two that would be capable of preventing or limiting vehicle operation if it detects driver impairment by alcohol. The NTSB recommends that the NHTSA require all new vehicles to be equipped with such systems.
- Incentivizing vehicle manufacturers and consumers to adopt intelligent

speed adaptation systems that would prevent speed-related crashes. This is a reiteration of a previous NTSB recommendation to NHTSA.

The NTSB announcement is timely since NHTSA is now mandated by law (i.e., the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act) to develop and issue a safety standard for technology that would meet the NTSB's recommendation within three years. Automakers would then have several more years to comply.

This technology would serve as an important layer of protection against traffic injury and death at the hands of impaired drivers. A comprehensive approach includes strong DUI prevention laws, highly visible and equitable enforcement of those laws, and a high degree of personal responsibility that comes with the privilege of driving.

Fire Risk: Hyundai and Kia Recall

Hyundai Motor America and Kia America recommend that owners of select Model Year 2020-2022 Hyundai Palisade and Kia Telluride park outside and away from homes and other structures until their vehicles have been repaired due to the risk of fire.

The recalls involve 245,030 Model Year 2020-2022 Hyundai Palisade vehicles (NHTSA ID: 22V-633) and 36,417 Model Year 2020-2022 Kia Telluride vehicles (NHTSA ID: 22V-626). An accessory tow hitch sold through dealerships may allow moisture into the harness module, causing a short circuit. In some cases, an electrical short can cause a vehicle fire while driving or while parked and turned off.

As an interim repair, Hyundai deal-

and enter their 17-digit vehicle ers will inspect the tow hitch module and remove the fuse as necessary. An identification number to see if their vehicle is interim repair is not available for Kia vehicles. The recall repair is under under recall. development. When a repair is available, all owners of vehicles potentially equipped with affected trailer hitch wiring harnesses will be notified by mail with instructions to bring their vehicles to a Hyundai or Kia dealer. Vehicle owners can visit NHTSA.gov/recalls

Real Heroes of the Road

Keeping Cool When Things Heat Up

In the summertime, afternoon temperatures in Florida can easily get above 100 degrees. Johnnie, a tow provider with Meyers Towing, responded to a member whose car had stalled out on the side of the road. When he arrived, the first thing he did was help the member to his truck so she could get out of the heat. As they were walking, she

of the Road to this woman, a stranger he had never met before.

Heroes Never Hesitate

Christian was just a few hours into his shift for United Towing when four women ran up to his truck and frantically began yelling for help. He jumped out of the truck to see what was happening and quickly realized the vehicle the women had just exited had bullet holes along the side. He also noticed that two of the women

were bleeding and appeared to have been shot as well. Without hesitation, Christian loaded the women into the cab of his truck and drove them to a local hospital that was less than five minutes from the scene. Once at the hospital, Christian

contacted the police about the incident and later gave a statement to help with the investigation.

When the women's family arrived at the hospital, they found Christian and thanked him for helping their loved ones in their greatest time of need. Abraham, the owner of United Towing, received a call later from the police department and recalls, "They wanted me to know that Christian's heroic actions saved the lives of two people that night."

Christian was a Real Hero of the Road to these women who were in a dire situation. Without his quick thinking and bravery, it's possible two of the women may not have survived.

Johnnie and Christian were Real Heroes of the Road to these people in crisis. When you're driving along the highway and you see a tow provider like them or other first responders working, think of these stories and what their bravery meant to others. And when you do, please move over AND slow down so they can do their job safely. We need tow providers like Johnnie and Christian and so do our members; but most of all, so do their families. Help us keep them safe.



asked to sit down, saying that she was feeling light-headed. Johnnie was helping her to the ground when she collapsed. He immediately dialed 911 for assistance since she was unresponsive and appeared to not be breathing. The 911 dispatcher began giving Johnnie directions on how to perform CPR.

Medical personnel arrived shortly after and transported the member to the hospital where she made a full recovery. When Daniel, the owner of Meyer's towing, thinks back on that fateful summer day, he says, "I never dreamed on a typical Tuesday afternoon, the swift and compassionate actions of Johnnie would save the life

Johnnie was a Real Hero

of a member in need."





Notice to Drivers: New Laws On The Books

It is every driver's responsibility to be aware of and adhere to motor vehicle laws in their area. Notable laws enacted on key issues are highlighted below. Laws without effective dates are currently in effect.

Electric Vehicles

- Massachusetts HB 5050 provides a 12-month extension, through June 30, 2023, of the state's electric vehicle purchase incentive program.
- Massachusetts HB 5060 provides for an Electric Vehicle Adoption Incentive Trust Fund. Effective November 9, 2022.

Transportation Funding

• New Hampshire HB 1040 establishes a commission



to study revenue alternatives to the road toll for electric-powered and hybrid vehicles for the funding of improvements to the state's highways and bridges and their resulting improvements to the environment.

Automated Vehicles

 Michigan SB 706 allows MDOT to designate a segment of a roadway under its jurisdiction as an automated vehicle roadway.

Driver's Education

• New York AB 5084 requires instruction in pedestrian and bicyclist safety as part of the drivers pre-licensing course. Effective January 11, 2023.

Impaired Driving

• Pennsylvania HB 773 increases the penalties for those who have multiple driving under the influence convictions. Effective November 8, 2022.

Miscellaneous

 North Carolina SB 762 provides for a study on whether to establish requirements for manufacturers of farm equipment to make documentation, parts, software, or tools required to diagnose, maintain, or repair electronically enabled farm equipment available to equipment owners or independent repair providers in the same manner as authorized repair providers, and any necessary limitations and enforcement mechanisms.



On The Road

Warnings Regarding Flood-Damaged Cars

Heavy rain and rapidly melting snow can lead to vehicle flood damage, which often results in difficult and expensive repairs. To avoid causing additional problems, AAA cautions motorists that a flood-damaged car should not be started until a thorough inspection and cleaning has been performed.

"In addition to the obvious damage done to upholstery and carpeting, flood water is a corrosive and abrasive mixture of water and dirt that works its way into every seam and crevice of a vehicle," said Ed Gouker, Director of AAA Automotive Services and author of AskEd.

"Most vulnerable are the engine, transmission and drive train, along with the fuel, brake and power steering systems. Unless dirt and other contaminants are completely removed from these important vehicle components, increased wear and premature failure can result," Gouker said.

Dealing with a flood-damaged vehicle

A vehicle that has been involved in a flood can usually be started and driven safely if the water level never rose above the door openings and the interior of the car is dry. However, it is a good idea to have the undercarriage washed to remove storm debris, including dirt, salt and other contaminants that might have been in the floodwater. Have a qualified technician inspect the brakes and any other mechanical or electrical components that were partially or completely submerged.

Do not attempt to start a vehicle that has been involved in a flood if

the water level rose above the door opening and the interior of the car is wet. Doing so could cause major problems if flood water has contaminated the engine oil or other vehicle fluids. A qualified technician should thoroughly inspect and service the vehicle as necessary before it is started.

How to spot a flood-damaged vehicle

Insurance companies often declare flood-damaged vehicles as total losses, and those cars are then sold to salvage companies. However, rather than being dismantled for parts, some of these vehicles are purchased by individuals who restore them to some degree of working order. AAA warns car buyers that water-damaged vehicles often continue to appear in the marketplace for many months following major floods.

Before purchasing a used vehicle, acquire a CARFAX Vehicle History Report. The report may reveal if the car has been in a flood or been issued a salvage title.

To determine if a used vehicle has been water damaged, look for these signs:

- Damp or musty odors inside the vehicle.
- Carpet or upholstery that has been replaced or recently shampooed. Pull back the carpet at different areas and look for mud, dirt, rust or water stains.
- Mud and dirt on the underside of the dashboard. This area is hard to clean.
- Rust on the underside of the vehicle. Corrosion is uncommon in newer vehicles and those that are owned and operated in warmer cli-

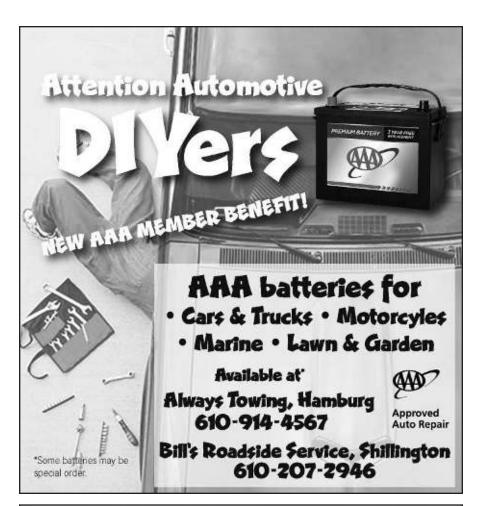
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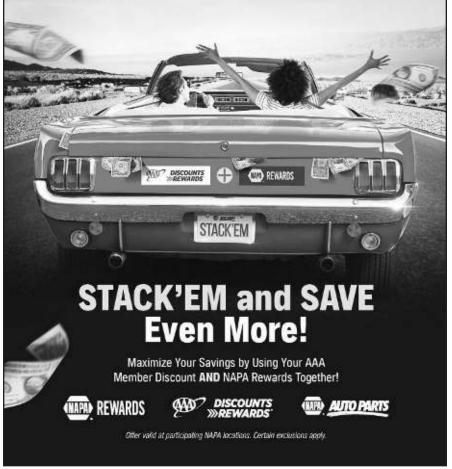
- Rust, mud, dirt or discoloration in body seams and small out-of-theway crevices on the doors, under the hood and inside the trunk.
- Open all doors, hood, and trunk to inspect for corrosion, mud and dirt or discoloration on the door frames, hinges and under the weather stripping. Pay special attention to small spaces and crevices that are difficult to clean.

Fixing a flood-damaged vehicle

If water has not entered the interior of the car, a thorough undercar inspection/cleaning, including the brake system components and checking/changing drivetrain fluids as necessary, is USUALLY effective if done right. The cost will probably run between a couple hundred and a thousand dollars, depending on the vehicle and its condition.

However, once water has entered the interior of the car, insurance companies are more likely than not to total the car. If only a small amount of water has entered the car it MIGHT be possible to remove and clean/replace the carpeting, door panels, footwells, and upholstery. However, that can be very costly (particularly on highline models) and unless the interior is extensively disassembled you have no way of knowing whether water and dirt have made their way into electrical wiring and components that are located low under seats, consoles and carpeting. Doing the job right can run into thousands of dollars, and even then the possibility exists that rust, corrosion and electrical/mechanical issues may develop days, weeks, months or even years down the road.





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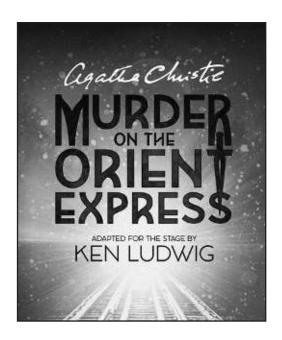
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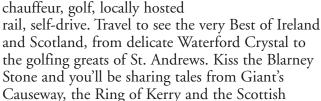
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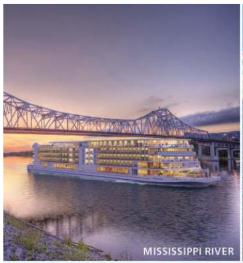
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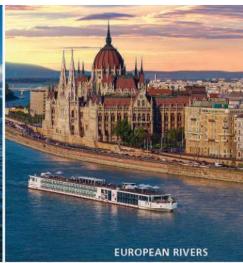












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