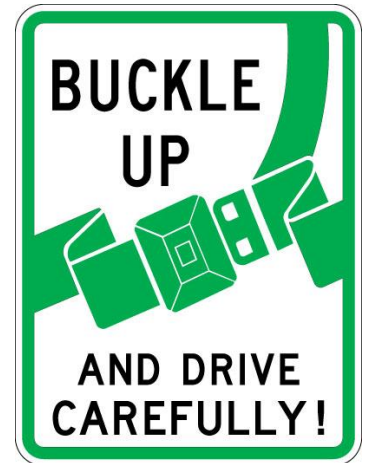




SAFE DRIVING PRACTICES

Data available from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) indicates 632 traffic fatalities occurred in Colorado during 2018. Of this total, 34% of the fatalities were speed related and 34% of the victims were not using seat belt restraints. Many motor vehicle accidents (and injuries) are preventable if drivers maintain a high level of alertness while driving and follow safe driving practices, including wearing seat belt restraints.



Safe Driving Practices

- Before changing lanes, turn your head to check mirror blind spots for other traffic. Always signal before passing other vehicles.
- Maintain a three to four second distance between your vehicle and the vehicle ahead of you.
- Always look in both directions when entering intersections, crosswalks, or railroad crossings.
- Do not rely on traffic signals to stop cross traffic. Always scan controlled intersections for oncoming cross traffic.
- Allow adequate room in front of you to stop. It takes about 400 feet to react and bring a car to a stop from a speed of 55 mph. Likewise at 35 mph, it takes about 210 feet.
- Reduce your speed when driving at night. Be prepared to stop within the distance lighted by your headlights.
- Use your high beams where appropriate. Dim your high beams when necessary.
- Reduce your driving speed to accommodate adverse weather conditions (i.e., heavy rain, snow, or fog).
- When driving in fog use your low beams, increase your following distance, and be prepared to stop within the distance you can see ahead.
- If the fog becomes too thick to sufficiently see ahead, stop driving, turn off your lights, and pull completely off the road. Continue driving when the fog thins and allows adequate road vision.
- When entering a freeway, merge at the speed of the freeway traffic. When exiting a freeway, signal your intention to exit for about five seconds.
- Always change highway lanes one at a time. Signal your intention to change freeway lanes.
- Allow an adequate distance to oncoming traffic when attempting to pass another vehicle on a two lane road. At 55 mph, you will need a distance of about one-third of a mile (1,750 feet) from oncoming traffic to pass safely.
- Always allow pedestrians, including bicyclists, the right-of-way in crosswalks. Always wear seat belt restraints and obey posted speed limits.

- When traveling in any agency vehicle, it is mandatory for all employees and individuals receiving services to secure seat belts prior to starting the vehicle and continuing to use them while moving.
- Employees who transport individuals receiving services in their personal vehicles are also required to secure and use seat belts on individuals receiving care and themselves while driving.
- Any staff person transporting any children involved in Starpoint programs will be required to use an authorized child safety seats as required by law.