

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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National Teen Driver Safety Month and Free Parent of Teen Drivers Class

Weld County - As motor vehicle crashes remain the number one cause of teen fatalities, DRIVE SMART Weld County acknowledges October as National Teen Driver Safety month and urges parents and teens to take the essential steps to prevent crashes behind the wheel. Throughout the month, DRIVE SMART and its many safety partners across the county will be encouraging parents of teen drivers to get the facts and start the conversations- by talking with their teens about safety behind the wheel.

"National Teen Driver Safety Month may only last for a few weeks but reminding teens about safety should happen year-round", states Kelly Martinez, DRIVE SMART Weld County Coordinator. She encourages taking this opportunity to talk with your teen drivers at the breakfast table, leave notes by their keys, and set aside time to take your teen on practice driving sessions. "It can be a great way to spend time together and to allow your teen to improve some basic driving skills. Keeping the conversation going will ensure that our roads and teen drivers stay safe," Martinez says.

Motor vehicle crashes are one of the leading cause of death for teens because teens lack driving experience. One out of every five licensed 16-year-olds will be in a motor vehicle crash. Colorado has implemented the Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) laws to decrease this risk by introducing teenagers to driving in phases.

On Wednesday, November 14th from noon until 1:00pm, a free Parent of Teen Drivers class will be offered by DRIVE SMART Weld County at the Weld County Training Center, 1104 H St. in Greeley.

This class is intended for parents of teens ages 14, 15 or 16, but the information will be useful to everyone who has a soon-to-be or new driver. The class will include tips about insurance coverage for new drivers, guidelines for parents to set limits for their teen drivers and a chance to ask questions. A manual, "Teaching Your Teen to Drive," will be given to everyone who attends. Lunch will be provided.

For more information or to register, contact Kelly Martinez at the Weld County Department of Public Health and Environment, 970-304-2325 or visit www.drivesmartweldcounty.org.

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