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## Mezrano Law Firm eNewsletter July 2021

Summer vacations are a time to unwind, relax and reconnect. After an incredibly long and stressful year of COVID lockdowns, many families are more than ready to get away and hit the road this summer. With reports estimating that more than 67% of Americans are planning to travel this summer and almost half will be driving and staying within 100 miles from home, it is more important than ever to be safe and alert on the road. According to the [Insurance Institute for Highway Safety](#), July and August are the deadliest months to travel due to the higher number of cars on the road. Use these tips to help keep you and your family safe on the road this summer.

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### LATEST NEWS



### SUMMER DRIVING SAFETY TIPS

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## BEFORE YOU GO

- Whether you're traveling 5 or 500 miles, make sure you and your car are ready. Summer heat can do much damage to your car. You don't want to get stranded somewhere because you weren't prepared. Keep a phone charger, flashlight, first aid kit, wipes and booster cables in your car. It's always handy to have drinks and snacks, in case you run into unexpected road delays or breakdowns. In addition, have a [vehicle inspection](#) done on your car before you go—not only for your safety, but also for better road mileage. Most locations will do an inspection for free. Check tire pressure to make sure they are properly inflated and avoid blowouts.
- Check for any [recalls](#) before hitting the road. ([NHTSA.gov/Recalls](https://www.nhtsa.gov/Recalls))
- Have sunglasses on hand for daytime driving to prevent vision issues from glare.
- Plan your travel and route. Pay attention to weather forecasts, road conditions and traffic ahead of time.
- Get plenty of rest before long road trips



## ROAD SAFETY

- Buckle up every time you get in the car.
- Make sure children are in an [approved child safety seat](#) or properly buckled in. ([NHTSA Car Seats and Booster Seats](#))
- Flip flops can easily get caught under the pedals while driving. Wear safe and appropriate shoes for driving.
- Turn off your phone or put in [Do Not Disturb mode](#) to avoid using it while driving. If you need to make a call, pull off the road.

## ON THE ROAD

- Make sure headlights are on at twilight, so other drivers can easily see you.
- Watch for motorcyclists, cyclists and pedestrians. Leave additional space between motorcycles, bicycles and your car. Children may run between cars in parking lots and along neighborhood streets. Drive slower and be on alert.
- [Slow down in construction zones.](#)
- [Never use cruise control in wet weather.](#)



- The period between Memorial Day and Labor Day is known as the “[100 Deadliest Days](#)” due to the increase of fatal crashes, particularly involving teens. The majority of teen crashes occurs between 9pm and midnight. Have strict policies with your teens concerning any form of distracted driving— no texting, eating or too many teen passengers. Consider having your teen sign a [parent/teen driving contract](#).
- Be careful when backing out. Walk around your car to make sure objects or children are not behind your car. Backup cameras may not accurately show kids, pets and objects who may be in the [blind zones](#).
- [Never leave children or pets in the car unattended](#)—ever! In just 10 minutes, a car can heat up by 20 degrees and become deadly to a child whose body temperature rises three to five times faster than an adult. ([NHTSA Heatstroke](#))
- Use a windshield cover to keep your car cool when parked in the sun. It will help keep your car cooler and protect your dashboard and steering wheel from the heat.
- Stay alert. Keep your tank at least half full. On longer trips, plan to make frequent stops to stretch. If you become drowsy, change drivers or stay somewhere for the night. Limit driving after 9pm.
- Do not be a distracted driver. Keep your eyes on the road—not on your phone. Obey speed limits and never drive when under the influence.
- Finally, be kind on the road. Watch for other drivers and do not engage an irate driver. It’s not worth the risk of ruining your trip or losing your life.



## Happy Independence Day!

July 4th is an important day in American history. This day we celebrate our freedom as Americans who all bleed one color; red, white and blue.

Here are some facts about the holiday:

1. Congress actually voted for independence from Great Britain on July 2, 1776. However, the document was not dated until July 4th and apparently wasn’t signed by everyone until August 2, 1776.
2. The Pennsylvania Evening Post was the first newspaper to print the Declaration on July 6, 1776.
3. The Liberty Bell rings 13 times every July 4th to honor the original thirteen states.
4. The first 4th of July fireworks show took place in Philadelphia in 1777 complete with fireworks, cannons and bells.
5. Independence Day did not become a federal holiday until 1870.
6. Americans spend over one billion on fireworks every year to celebrate.
7. The favorite food for July 4th is hot dogs. Americans consume over 150 million hot dogs on this day.

*For a list of July 4th celebrations in the area, take a look at the article, [July 4 fireworks, festivals and other events in Alabama 2021](#).*

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