

Fall 2024



Slow & Steady On The Road to Safety



Hazel Mae Leads the Way!

The New Hampshire Department of Transportation would like to introduce “Hazel Mae”. Hazel will be helping the Driving Toward Zero (DTZ) team conduct outreach to schools, community events, and regional planning commissions. Our goal is to reduce NH roadway deaths by 50% by 2030, and down to zero by 2050. Currently New Hampshire is at 118 roadway fatalities for the year.

There are many issues which could turn a daily commute into a tragedy. In our busy, interconnected world, time is a precious commodity more than ever, but one bad decision could lead to a lifetime of regrets. Speed limits are set to be just that, a maximum limit; not a suggestion or minimum speed to follow. A crash can lead to the fatality of yourself, a loved one, or someone else’s loved one.



According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), in the year 2022 speeding contributed to 29% (12,151) roadway fatalities nationally. A car driving at 20 MPH striking a pedestrian results in an 18% chance of serious injury or fatality. At 40 MPH this risk jumps up to 77% chance of serious injury or death!

All road users need to take ownership of their own actions to create safer roads. A typical day is filled with tasks and distractions, but when driving all road users have a responsibility for each others safety. Be a hero, and help us Drive Toward Zero.

Lastly, as Hazel Mae says, “Slow and Steady, It’s Not A Race.”

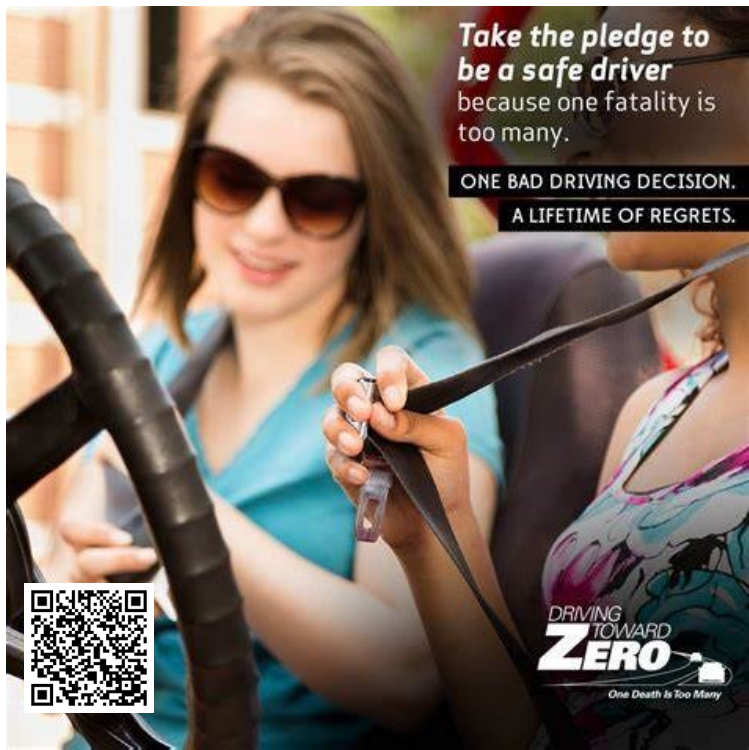
Recent Activity

Hazel Mae and the Driving Toward Zero team have recently been to the NH Deerfield Fair along with several colleges and high schools to discuss the current state of the NH roadways and promote awareness and education towards safe driving. In our travels we have met with concerned parents, inquisitive current and future adolescent drivers, and many who have been personally affected by a motor vehicle crash.

The NHDOT is shifting toward a “Complete Streets” transportation model that recognizes streets and highways need to be safe for all road users. The initial “Complete Streets Policy” is planned to be completed by the end of 2024. Roundabouts and all-way stop intersections are replacing traffic signals and two-way stops as preferred intersection treatments as they are safer and more accessible for all modes of transportation. These changes help institute a Safe System Approach where roadways need to account for human error by providing redundant safety elements whenever practical.

If you would like DTZ to come to a community event, school or neighborhood near you—visit NHDTZ.com or contact us at NHDTZ@dot.nh.gov





Upcoming Activities

Hazel Mae and the gang will be heading to the following locations soon:

- Tour of NH High Schools with Buckle Up NH and Think Fast Interactive in January/February

Teen Driver Safety Week October 20-26, 2024

In support of the recent NHTSA National Teen Driver Safety Week NHDOT would like to issue a call to action for parents and guardians. Whether you have a current or future young driver, you are their role model for driving. They learn from your actions, and if you are taking risks they are more likely to do the same. Lead by example; buckle up, leave your cellphone alone, and maintain safe driving habits.

As the rule setters for your household it is important to be a force multiplier for safe practices. Law enforcement is only able to cover a finite amount of the streets and highways to ensure the laws are followed.

Teens are susceptible to a number of “Danger Zones” and should be educated on the potential risks. Approximately 60% of teen drivers will have a crash, ticket, or be arrested within the first year of driving. They may make a life altering mistake for themselves or others. Inexperience behind the wheel means that young drivers don’t have the second nature skills that allow for split second reactions to unexpected situations. As a result, motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for youth aged 16-19. The State of NH has restrictions for youth drivers under 20 when it comes to operating hours and other passengers in the vehicle. More information can be found at, [Youth Operator Restrictions & Violations - Under 20 | NH Division of Motor Vehicles](#). Much like drugs and alcohol, youth are susceptible to peer pressure to engage in risky driving; speeding, racing, and illegal maneuvers.

Take an active role in your teen’s life and discuss expectations. When expectations are not met, rules can be enforced in constructive ways. This isn’t about ruining fun; it’s about keeping everyone safe. Helpful advice to create house rules, along with some samples, can be found here: [Setting House Rules | Teen Driver Source \(chop.edu\)](#).

TEEN DRIVER DANGER ZONES



All-Way Stops

An effective solution...



...to a common problem

LIVE FREE OR DIE BENEFITS HAMPSHIRE

Inexpensive, allowing more locations to increase safety while staying on budget

Quick installation with minimal impact to traffic during implementation

Effective at managing left-turn conflicts and areas with poor sight lines

Increases driver awareness and recognition of the intersection

Creates safer environment for pedestrian crossings

LIVE FREE OR DIE FACTS HAMPSHIRE

Converting a two-way stop controlled intersection to an all-way stop reduces:

All crashes up to 68%

Angle crashes up to 75%

Injury/fatal crashes up to 82%

Can be implemented as an interim solution while a longer range solution is planned (Typically a Traffic signal or Roundabout)

Significantly reduces likelihood of two vehicles entering intersection simultaneously

Roundabouts

The reality of no roundabout...

...is a fatality waiting to be talked about

LIVE FREE OR DIE BENEFITS HAMPSHIRE

- Proven safety countermeasure
- Improved operational performance over other types of intersections
- Manages speeds for vehicles entering, circulating and departing
- Reduces congestion
- Versatile to most traffic conditions
- Creates safer pedestrian crossings
- Safer Bicyclist Integration

LIVE FREE OR DIE FACTS HAMPSHIRE

- Less Conflicts:
 - Roundabout:
 - 16 conflict points (8 vehicular, 8 pedestrian)
 - 4-way intersection:
 - 56 conflict points (32 vehicular, 24 pedestrian)
- Compared to a traditional 4-way intersection, roundabouts reduce:
 - Fatal crashes up to 90%
 - Injury crashes up to 76%
 - All crashes up to 36%

LIVE FREE OR DIE MORE INFO HAMPSHIRE

- Looking to learn more about roundabouts in New Hampshire?
- Go to dot.nh.gov and type "Roundabouts" into the search bar or scan this QR code:



Totals		FATAL MOTOR VEHICLE CRASHES	SPLY*	2024 to date
2022	2023			
137	119	Crashes for January 1, 2024 to November 4, 2024	108	107
146	127	All Persons Killed	115	118
75	54	Operators Killed	48	54
1	3	Under 21 Year-Old Operators Killed	2	9
17	17	71+ Year-Old Operators Killed	14	8
58	39	Unbelted Operators/Occupants Killed	35	33
22	31	Unhelmeted MC Operators/Passengers Killed	32	15
17	14	Adult Occupants Killed	11	13
2	1	Child (<18) Occupants Killed	0	2
16	15	Adult Pedestrians Killed	13	12
1	0	Child (<18) Pedestrians Killed	0	0
12	9	Fatal Involving Commercial Vehicles	6	7
2	0	Commercial Vehicle Operators Killed	0	0
0	0	Commercial Vehicle Passengers Killed	0	0
31	37	Motorcycle Operators Killed	38	29
1	3	Motorcycle Passengers Killed	3	2
0	1	Moped Operators Killed	1	2
0	1	OHRV Occupants Killed	0	0
0	0	Snowmobile Operators Killed	0	0
3	1	Adult Bicyclist Killed	1	4
0	0	Child (<18) Bicyclists Killed	0	0

Data sourced from NH Department of Safety