

Quarterly Report

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Why only 38 cars earned IIHS top safety pick status

After years in which automakers had to add high-tech features to get top ratings in its survey, the insurance industry's safety arm is focusing on what many drivers will consider one of the lower-tech aspects of their cars — headlights.

The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety said that it had stiffened the criteria for its highest safety honors, the Top Safety Pick Plus label, toughening standards for headlight performance.

As a consequence, only 38 models from the 2017 model year have achieved the top score, down from 79 of 2016 models, IIHS reports. The

group tracks about 200 models.

"We've raised the bar," IIHS President Adrian Lund said in an interview. "Automakers have not focused enough attention on whether or not headlamps are aimed such that they light up the road for the driver ahead of them."

"Interestingly, some luxury vehicles come with fancy headlights that shift with the curvature of the road in an effort to provide better illumination, but they don't always work better than the plain old-fashioned kind", Lund said. Many headlights are failing to provide adequate nighttime visibility or causing too much glare.

2017 model-year IIHS Top Safety Pick+ designees

Small cars

Chevrolet Volt, Hyundai Elantra (sedan only, built after 03/16), Mazda 3, Toyota Corolla, Toyota Prius (built after 08/16)

Mid-size cars

Honda Accord 4-door, Mazda 6, Nissan Altima, Nissan Maxima, Subaru Legacy, Subaru Outback, Toyota Camry, Toyota Prius v, Volkswagen Jetta

Mid-size luxury cars

Audi A4, Lexus ES 350, Volvo S60, Volvo V60

Large luxury cars

Genesis G80, Genesis G90, Lexus RC

Small SUVs

Mazda CX-3, Mitsubishi Outlander, Nissan Rogue, Subaru Forester (built after October 2016), Toyota RAV4

Mid-size SUVs

Honda Pilot, Hyundai Santa Fe

Mid-size luxury SUVs

Acura MDX, Acura RDX, Audi Q5, Buick Envision, Lexus NX, Lexus RX, Mercedes-Benz GLE-Class, Volvo XC60

Minivan

Chrysler Pacifica (built after August 2016)

Large pickup

Honda Ridgeline

Congratulations to Carolyn (CJ) Williamson

Carolyn (CJ) Williamson who had been with USA for nearly 15 years, recently retired. She was a valued member of the USA staff and will be greatly missed. We wish her the best during her retirement — she definitely earned it! Congrats & Best Wishes can be sent to Carolyn (CJ) at usatraining.info@gmail.com and we'll pass them on to her.

Getting your vehicle fixed

An alarming statistic is making news regarding nearly 100 million vehicles recalled in the US.

According to Carfax, many owners never get their cars fixed, even though repairs are free to recalled cars. Considering that 254.7 million cars and trucks are traveling U.S. roads, there's a high probability that your car is affected by one of the recalls. Carfax estimates that there are about 46 million recalled vehicles on the road that have not been repaired.

Regulators advise that you not wait to get a letter in the mail or

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Mystery device could let criminals get in your car in seconds

TODAY national investigative correspondent Jeff Rossen reported on a wave of auto thefts involving a high-tech gadget giving criminals full access to your car.

Police were stumped. But now officials say they may have solved the mystery. "It certainly could be a factor in some of the increase in thefts we've seen recently," said Roger Morris of the National Insurance Crime Bureau.

With Rossen producer Jovanna

Billington playing the part of car theft victim, Rossen and Morris demonstrated how the device works. Billington parked her car in a parking lot, locked it and walked away.

What she didn't see was a "suspect" played by Morris, trailing behind her with the device in hand. Within seconds, the device cloned the signal of her car's key fob.

Rossen's smaller device picked up that signal and, in effect, became a key to Billington's car. It took him only

seconds using it to open her car and start it.

And that's not all. Experts were able to use the same device to break into and even start 17 different makes and models of cars.

The Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers, an auto industry association, told NBC News that "protecting vehicle access and security continue to be top priorities" and that "automakers have been working on multiple fronts" to address security and enhance it.

"Technology has been driving down the theft rate for years, and now thieves are using technology to perhaps drive it back up again," Morris said. He suggested that motorists concerned about the device "park in a crowded area at least so it lessens the chance. And if you see someone suspicious around there, have second thoughts and maybe alert the police."

Here's the link video:

<http://www.today.com/money/mystery-device-could-let-criminals-get-your-car-seconds-t105627>

Is Uber affecting New York traffic?

Increasing congestion, decreasing speeds

Many people accuse Uber of slowing traffic by up to 12%, though the estimations change depending on who you ask and what factors are considered. Between 2010 and 2014 the average speed in New York City has dropped to 8.5 miles per hour, a wretchedly slow and still decreasing speed. Obviously, people are hoping for a solution to the problem. Many fingers are starting to point at Uber as the cause for the decrease. Since 2011 the company has added 18,000 affiliated cars to New York City streets. However, Uber is not the only FHV company out there, and several factors affect New York City traffic, including but not limited to pedestrians, bikes, private vehicles and taxis.

In past months, de Blasio proposed freezing the number of FHVs in New York for a year in order to conduct a study to discover the underlying cause of the decreased average speed. The proposal would have severely capped Uber's growth and was shut down. In return, Uber has agreed to release numbers regarding its contribution to traffic congestion. But Uber's battles aren't over yet. It is still being investigated for increasing the pollution in New York City as well as being considered for MTA contributions. Metropolitan Transportation Authority requires taxis to pay \$0.50 per ride for subway and train funding, as well as \$0.30 for wheelchair accessible taxis. FHVs are currently exempt, but there are plans to change this.

Despite the fire under Uber services, only 47% of New Yorkers believe Uber increased the city's congestion according to a conducted poll. Only 18% of voters believe capping or limiting Uber would solve the problem. What do you think?

USPS Rate change

The USPS has been approved to proceed with the implementation of the **January 22, 2017** price changes. First-Class Mail products, Standard Mail products, Periodical products and Package Service products will be affected and the cost will be **\$0.49**.

For completion reports, information, etc. mailed to USA on or after **January 22, 2017** - make sure you have the correct amount of postage.

Is your airbag safe?

When airbag maker Takata first announced in 2013 that some of its airbags could deploy improperly in car crashes, only six makes of cars were implicated in recalls. By 2016, 34 million vehicles in the U.S. are thought to have been affected. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration now estimates that nearly 70 million Takata inflators will be recalled by 2019. So far, the faulty airbags are thought to have killed more than a dozen people, and injured more than 100, when they deployed explosively.

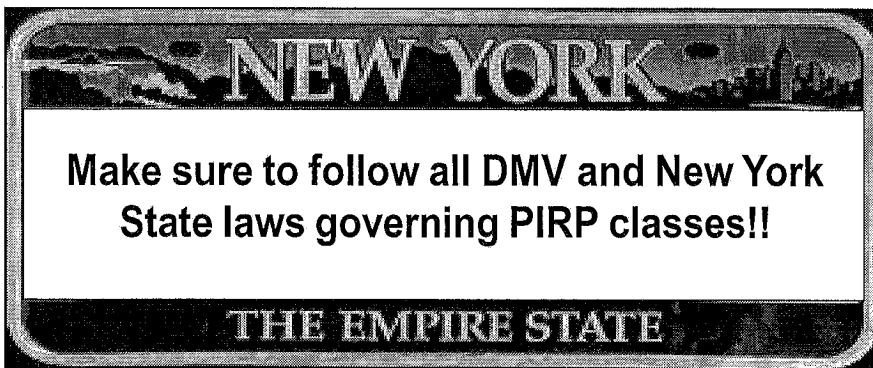
According to the NHTSA, age of the airbag might be a factor in many of these airbag problems. J.D. Power and Associates has released data that says the average car in the U.S. is 11 years old, and tens of millions are more than 15 years old; by law, they all have at least one airbag.

It's possible, say experts, for even reliable airbags to break down over time. They're recommending options that include ways to test airbags or sense possible malfunctions, or even onboard diagnostics systems that could remotely alert the manufacturer. The NHTSA is looking at advisories for car owners to replace their airbags at a set date. And federal regulators are considering new rules to mandate replacements in order to register your vehicle.

If you have concerns about your car, or don't know if it's part of a recall, visit the NHTSA website, which issues recall alerts and keeps a list of makes and models involved in recalls. Is your airbag safe?

Double-triple check student drivers license numbers!

Upon a review of student records uploaded to the NY DMV, over a recent 3-months period USA determined approximately 4% EACH MONTH were sent by NY PIRP agencies to USA for processing with **INVALID** drivers license numbers (*that is several hundred per month*). It is extremely important to **STUDENTS** and **INSTRUCTORS** to check drivers license numbers to make sure they are **CORRECT** and **LEGIBLE** before mailing completion report, (*original*) student information sheets and fee to USA for processing. Incorrect (*and out-of-state*) DL #s will not import into the New York DMV database.



Getting your vehicle fixed

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experience a problem with your car. You can take your vehicle identification number - the 17-digit number that you can find on the car, your registration or your insurance card - and punch it into your automaker's website or the NHTSA's site, safecar.gov, and see if work is pending. Carfax also has a free app that will run a license plate number to see if your vehicle has been recalled.

For lovers of the English language

- Santa's helpers are subordinate clauses.
- A tired pontiff is too pooped to pope.
- D ijon vu - the sam e m ustard as before.

2017 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE USA TRAINING

USA Training Company will be closed on the following dates:

- Jan. 2 - New Years Day Holiday*
- Jan. 16 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day*
- February 20 - President's Day*
- Mar. 2 - Texas Independence Day*
- April 14 - Good Friday*
- April 21 - San Jacinto Day*
- May 29 - Memorial Day*
- June 19 - Emancipation Day*
- July 4 - July 4th Holiday*
- September 4 - Labor Day*
- October 9 - Columbus Day*
- Nov. 10 - Veterans Day Observed*
- November 23 & 24 - Thanksgiving*
- December 25 & 26 - Christmas*

Garbage trucks added to state's 'Move Over' law

It is now illegal to speed past sanitation vehicles.

In accordance with the new law as of November, 2016 motorists must now reduce their speed when passing waste and recycling collection vehicles with flashing lights.

The trucks in the new law are defined as any motor vehicle with a rear compaction function that is intended for the collection of refuse.

The 'Move Over' law in 2012 required motorists to slow down when passing a construction zone or public safety vehicle with flashing lights.

In New York state, hazard vehicles

now include: tow trucks; garbage and recycling trucks; snow plows; rural mail carrier vehicles; vehicles used to build, maintain or repair utilities; and any vehicle used while maintaining highways.

Drivers who are convicted of speeding by any hazard vehicle -- including garbage trucks -- face paying up to a \$150 fine and spending up to 15 days in jail under the state's Vehicle and Traffic Law.

The law requires drivers to drive at an "appropriate reduced speed" when passing hazard vehicles. An exact speed was not given.



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The growing threat of drugged driving

It's not just illegal drugs that put traffic safety at risk. Common prescription and over-the-counter medications, while legal, can also impair driving skills.

If you get behind the wheel while you're impaired by any substance, you put yourself, your passengers, and others on the road at risk.

YouTube 'star' stops NYC traffic

YouTube 'star' Coby Persin was doing a photoshoot in the middle of New York City traffic. He just plopped a car down in the middle of Manhattan and started taking photos.

So consequently, another driver got out of his car and smashed the windshield with a baseball bat. Link to watch video: <http://ftw.usatoday.com/2016/11/youtube-star-stops-nyc-traffic-for-photoshoot-gets-his-windshield-smashed>

RETRAIN

Check your instructor expiration date! All PIRP Instructors must possess a current drivers license and attend a recertification class every 2 years.

Call for dates, locations & class fee for RETRAIN!

USA Trainers:

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EMERGENCY CONTACT

In the event USA is experiencing trouble with our phone network, scan your requests and email to lbagwell@usatraining.com

NEW YORK

Make sure to follow all DMV and New York State laws governing PIRP classes!!

THE EMPIRE STATE