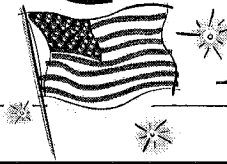




# Quarterly Report



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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 March 2016), Mazda3, Toyota Corolla, Toyota Prius (built after August 2016)

#### Mid-size cars

Honda Accord 4-door, Mazda6, 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](mailto: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 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

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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 Giovanna 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."

*Jeff Rossen and Lindsey Bonnin*

*Here's the link to watch this very important video:*

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

## New Statistics - Injury Facts

The National Safety Council estimates 38,300 people were killed and 4.4 million injured on U.S. roads in 2015, which saw the largest one-year percentage increase in half a century. There were 29,989 fatal motor vehicle crashes in the United States in 2014 in which 32,675 deaths occurred. Motor-vehicle deaths were up 8% in 2015. This resulted in 11.87 deaths per 100,000 people and 1.22 deaths per 100 million vehicle miles traveled, an increase of 5% from the 2014 rate. The three biggest causes of fatalities on the road include: alcohol (31%); speeding (30%) and distracted driving (26%).

### How big is the problem?

- ♦ In 2014 and 2015 nearly one-third of all traffic-related deaths in the US were killed in alcohol-impaired related crashes.
- ♦ Of the 1,070 traffic deaths among children ages 0-14 years, 209 (19%) involved an alcohol-impaired driver
- ♦ Of the 209 child passengers ages 14 and younger who died in alcohol-impaired driving crashes, over half (116) were riding in the vehicle with the alcohol-impaired driver.
- ♦ Over a million drivers were arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol or narcotics. That's one percent of the 121 million self-reported episodes of alcohol-impaired driving among U.S. adults each year.
- ♦ Drugs other than alcohol (legal and illegal) are involved in about 16% of motor vehicle crashes
- ♦ Marijuana use is increasing and 13% of nighttime, weekend drivers have marijuana in their system.
- ♦ Marijuana users were about 25% more likely to be involved in a crash than drivers with no evidence of marijuana use, however other factors -- such as age and gender -- may account for the increased crash risk among marijuana users.

## USPS Rate change

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

**This will increase your cost per student from \$4.47 to \$4.49 for completion reports dated 01/22/17 and after.**

# Stuck in traffic, polluting the inside of our cars

The average American commuter spent 50 hours in traffic last year. As a nation, we spent eight billion hours sitting in our cars, waiting for lights to change, for the driver ahead to sneak into that parking spot, for an accident to be cleared.

Research suggests that all that sitting and waiting is exposing us to more pollutants than we'd take in if we were cruising along.

In a car stuck in traffic, shutting all the windows and turning off the fan or heat reduced concentration doses of the smallest, most hazardous particles by up to 76 percent.

The researchers also found an increase in smaller particles inside the vehicle compared with larger ones when the heat was off and fans were on full blast, drawing in air from outside. Those findings suggest that the ventilation system was more effective at filtering out larger particles than smaller ones while stopped at intersections, reducing the concentration doses of those particles up to 68 percent, they said.

So when you're stopped at an intersection, roll up the windows, and breathe easier.

## TxDOT urges drivers to 'End The Streak' of daily deaths

AUSTIN: The Lone Star State marked a deadly milestone in October as at least one fatality occurred each and every day on Texas roadways since November 7, 2000. The leading

causes of fatalities continue to be failure to stay in one lane, alcohol and speed. In an effort to end this deadly 16-year streak, the Texas Department of Transportation, through its #EndTheStreakTX campaign, reminds drivers to stay alert - pay attention, put phone away & avoid distractions, obey traffic laws - buckle up, never drink and drive, drive the speed limit and take personal responsibility behind the wheel.

### 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

## Getting your vehicle fixed

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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.

### 2017 IDC SCHEDULE (Instructor Development Course)

Friday, Saturday and Sunday  
9 a.m. - 6 p.m. all three days  
\$110 Pre-Registration; \$150 At the Door

All classes will be held at  
USA Headquarters,  
8871 Tallwood Drive, Austin

- January 27, 28, 29
- March 24, 25, 26
- May 19, 20, 21
- July 28, 29, 30
- September 22, 23, 24
- November 17, 18, 19

## Retrain

The retrain class agenda changes every September 1st. Classes are scheduled within the 12-month period beginning September each year. Every licensed instructor must attend ONE class during the 12-month period beginning September 1, 2016 and ending August 31, 2017.

### AUSTIN

USA HQ, 8871 Tallwood Dr.  
All classes are 10am - 12noon  
Feb. 10, 2017 (Fri.)  
Apr. 7, 2017 (Fri.)  
June 9, 2017 (Fri.)

### BEAUMONT

BCD Driving School, 1060 S 4th St.  
Feb. 19, 2017 (Sun.), 2 pm - 4 pm

### HOUSTON

Greenway Mediation Center,  
3207 Mercer  
Jan 29, 2017 (Sun), 4pm - 6 pm

Golden Corral Restaurant  
16308 FM 529  
Apr. 22, 2017 (Sat.), 8:30 am - 10:30 am  
Cost is \$10 if you pre-register with a reservation form. If you do not have a reservation form, contact USA HQ. We will mail or fax the form to you.

# License Renewals (Fee: \$25)

## IMPORTANT INSTRUCTOR RENEWAL UPDATE

As of September 1, 2016 the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) began mailing a REVISED Instructor Renewal form directly to USA instructors. Perviously, USA mailed renewals to instructors, so some of you may have already received a renewal form from USA. If you received one from USA, it can be discarded.

## STEPS FOR USA DSC INSTRUCTOR RENEWAL

1) Complete the 1-page Instructor Renewal form received from TDLR. TDLR will mail to the address they have on file for you, so it is important to contact USA with any address, phone or email changes.

2) Instructors will receive verification of RETRAIN/Mandatory Continuing Education at the end of the RETRAIN class. Attach the Verification of CE (pink certificate) to your completed Instructor Renewal. TDLR will only process Instructor Renewals with CE Verification attached.

3) Attach fee (\$25) payable to TDLR if postmarked before or by expiration date. If after expiration date, refer to fee scale on your renewal form or contact USA if you have questions. You cannot teach if your license is expired.

4) Mail to USA, 8871 Tallwood Drive, Austin, TX 78759. (do NOT mail directly to TDLR).

- ◆ *Check the expiration date of your USA DSC Instructor license. IMPORTANT: TDLR should mail Instructor Renewal directly to you sixty (60) days prior to your expiration date. If you do not receive a renewal from TDLR, contact USA immediately.*
- ◆ *Submit your Instructor Renewal form with Verification of Continuing Education to USA postmarked NO LATER than license expiration date. Preferably 30-45 days prior to expiration). You can not teach if your license expires -- so plan ahead.*
- ◆ *Keep a copy of your renewal form, check to TDLR and Verification of CE.*

**Please call USA at 512-346-2132 with any questions.**

<i>Instructor</i>	<i>Expires</i>	<i>Instructor</i>	<i>Expires</i>	<i>Instructor</i>	<i>Expires</i>
Acosta, Jorge	11-Feb	Herrera, Victor	15-Feb	Roberts, Queen	5-Mar
Adams, Dale	28-Feb	Hill, Terry Lee	16-Feb	Robertson, Ida	2-Mar
Alvarez, Arturo	1-Jan	Housler, Conrad	20-Mar	Salazar, Yamilet	8-Jan
Ayala, Alex	4-Jan	Kolthoff, Shirley	31-Jan	Serna, Daniel	26-Feb
Barrington, Kimberly	16-Mar	Lima, Mary	5-Feb	Springli, Joseph	24-Feb
Barron, Ruth	7-Feb	Livingston, Jacqueline	9-Feb	Taylor, Bryan	11-Mar
Bechter, Alison	30-Jan	Lopez, Jr., Leopoldo	15-Mar	Tobias, J.D.	11-Feb
Bourne, Guy	11-Jan	McKay, Lisa	24-Mar	Tran, Diana	8-Feb
Cook, Jerome	9-Mar	McMinn, Marion	17-Feb	Vera, George	28-Mar
Daschofsky, Elisabeth	12-Jan	Miyauchi, Richard	30-Jan	Walker, Shirley	2-Feb
Eicker, Jerry	20-Mar	Onaiwu, Monday	23-Mar	Walzel, Victor	25-Mar
Garcia, John L.	28-Mar	Pool, John	10-Mar	Washington, Keith	21-Mar
Garza, Jose	5-Mar	Pride, Autrey	23-Feb	Woods, Robert	27-Feb
Harris, Debra	16-Mar	Reed, Charles	22-Jan		

**For lovers of the English language**

-- Santa's helpers are subordinate clauses.

-- A tired pontiff is too pooped to pope.

-- Dijon vu - the same mustard as before.

-- Reading while sunbathing makes you well red.

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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**