



# Quarterly Report



VOLUME 25, NUMBER 3

July 2017

## Ban on texting while driving takes effect September 1, 2017

The newest version of a texting while driving ban in the state Legislature would ban texting while a vehicle is operational but would still allow Texas motorists to type or read texts at stoplights.

Texas now has a texting ban for drivers which will go into effective September 1st. Governor Greg Abbott signed HB 62 approving the state's first ban on handheld communications by motorists. It brings an end to more than a decade of previous attempts for texting bans. Texas was one of four states without a general texting ban behind the wheel.

According to the Texas Department of Transportation, 455 people were killed and more than 3,000 seriously injured in the state of Texas last year (2016) in vehicle crashes related

to distracted driving. If cited and found guilty, the offense comes with a fine of \$25 to \$99 for a first offense and \$200 for repeat offenders.

Several Texas cities also have additional cell phone ordinances. Check out <http://www.txdot.gov/driver/laws/cellphones.html> for more information.

## Motor vehicle fatality estimates

Prepared by the Statistics Department, NSC

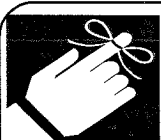
With continued lower gasoline prices and an improving economy resulting in an estimated 3% increase in the motor vehicle mileage, the number of motor vehicle deaths in 2016 totaled 40,200, up 6% from 2015 and the first time the annual fatality total has exceeded 40,000 since 2007. This 2016 estimate is provisional and may be revised when more data are available. The total for 2016 was up 14% from the 2014 figure. The annual total for 2015 was 37,575. The estimated annual population death rate is 12.40 deaths per 100,000 population, an increase of 5% from the 2015 rate. The estimated annual mileage death rate is 1.25 deaths per 100 million miles traveled, an increase of 3% from the 2015 rate.

Medically consulted motor-vehicle injuries in 2016 are estimated to be about 4.6 million, an increase of 7% from the 2015 rate. The estimated cost of motor-vehicle deaths, injuries, and property damage in 2016 was \$432.5 billion, an increase of 12%

from 2015. The costs include wage and productivity losses, medical expenses, administrative expenses, employer costs, and property damage.

### 2016 STATS, TxDOT

AT LEAST ONE PERSON HAS DIED EVERY DAY ON TEXAS ROADS SINCE NOVEMBER 7, 2000



### REMINDER

The TDLR no longer sends copies of licenses to USA. When you receive your INSTRUCTOR and/or SCHOOL license, please send a copy to USA by mail, fax (512-346-0431) or email to [sjacobs@usatraining.com](mailto:sjacobs@usatraining.com).

## Retrain

### 2017-2018 RETRAIN SCHEDULE

Every licensed instructor must attend ONE class during the 12-month period beginning

September 1, 2017

and ending

August 31, 2018

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# Drugged driving eclipses drunken driving in tests of motorists killed in crashes

For the first time, statistics show that drivers killed in crashes are more likely to be on drugs than drunk.

Forty-three percent of drivers tested in fatal crashes in 2015 had used a legal or illegal drug, eclipsing the 37 percent who tested above the legal limit for alcohol, according to a report released Wednesday by the Governors Highway Safety Association (GHSA) and the Foundation for Advancing Alcohol Responsibility.

Of the drivers who tested positive for drugs, more than a third had used marijuana and more than 9 percent had taken amphetamines.

As drunken driving has declined, drugged driving has increased dramatically, and many of today's impaired drivers are combining two or more substances.

The number of drivers who tested positive for drugs after dying in a crash rose from almost 28 percent in 2005 to 43 percent in 2015, the latest year for which data is available.

*By Ashley Halsey III  
The Washington Post*

## 2016 STATS, TxDOT

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29TH AND SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21ST WERE THE DEADLIEST DAYS IN 2016 WITH 23 PERSONS KILLED IN TRAFFIC CRASHES. OCTOBER WAS THE DEADLIEST MONTH WITH 382 PERSONS KILLED.

THE FATALITY RATE ON TEXAS ROADWAYS FOR 2016 WAS 1.44 DEATHS PER HUNDRED MILLION VEHICLE MILES TRAVELED. THIS IS A 3.59 % INCREASE FROM 2015

## 2016 STATS, TxDOT

265,076

PEOPLE WERE INJURED IN A CRASH IN TEXAS IN 2016

THERE WERE 14,202

SERIOUS INJURY CRASHES IN 2016 WITH

17,582

PEOPLE SUSTAINING A SERIOUS INJURY

## A sobering reality study: Drug related car crash deaths on the rise

Watch the 1-minute report (04/26/17) from the Today Show here: <https://view.yahoo.com/show/nbc-today-show/clip/60879900/drug-related-car-crash-deaths-are-on>

## In-car infotainment is a distraction

Think its safe to use a voice-activated in-car system to call your friend Dave or play the new Taylor Swift single? Think again. In two recently-published studies, researchers found it can take nearly half a minute to regain full focus on the road after giving voice commands to in-ear "infotainment" systems or smartphones, according to a University of Utah press release. "They are very distracting, very error prone, and very frustrating to use," lead researcher David Strayer says. "Far too many people are dying because of distraction on the roadway, and putting another source of distraction at the fingertips of drivers is not a good idea."

*The New York Times* reports the studies looked at more than 300 drivers behind the wheels of 10 new vehicles.

According to the University of Utah, drivers remained distracted for between 15 and 27 seconds after issuing voice commands to dial phone numbers, send texts, change music, and more. Researchers say that's "a surprisingly long time," and CBS News points out 27 seconds is enough time for someone driving 25 mph to travel the length of three football fields before fully returning his attention to the road. Safety advocates say carmakers are pushing voice-activated systems because they're profitable, not because they're actually safe to use while driving, the *Times* reports.

According to the University of Utah, thousands of people died due to driver distraction. "We now are trying to entertain the driver rather than keep the driver's attention on the road," one researcher says.

## 2017

### HOLIDAY SCHEDULE USA TRAINING

USA Training Company will be closed on the following dates:

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

**2016 STATS, TxDOT**

**PEDESTRIAN**  
FATALITIES TOTALED  
**678**  
IN 2016, AN INCREASE  
OF 21.5% FROM 2015

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**PEDALCYCLIST**  
FATALITIES TOTALED  
**65 IN 2016,**  
A 25% INCREASE FROM 2015

**2016 STATS, TxDOT**

**BASED ON REPORTABLE  
CRASHES IN 2016:**

- ◆ 1 PERSON WAS KILLED EVERY 2 HOURS & 20 MINUTES
- ◆ 1 PERSON WAS INJURED APPROXIMATELY EVERY 2 MINUTES
- ◆ 1 REPORTABLE CRASH OCCURRED EVERY 57 SECONDS

**2016 STATS, TxDOT**

THERE WERE **455**  
PEOPLE KILLED IN CRASHES  
INVOLVING  
**DISTRACTED DRIVING.**  
THIS IS A 5% DECREASE FROM  
2015.

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**3,773**  
PEOPLE WERE KILLED ON TEXAS  
ROADS IN 2016 WHICH WAS AN  
**INCREASE OF 5.45%** FROM  
THE **3,578** DEATHS RECORDED IN  
2015

**TXDOT - 2016 STATS:**  
<http://www.txdot.gov/government/enforcement/annual-summary.html>

## Most SUV headlights are unsafe, recent IIHS study finds

Most of the SUVs evaluated by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) were found to have unsafe headlights, according to the industry group's standards

The IIHS tested the brightness of the headlights and how much glare they cause for oncoming drivers.

Of the 37 vehicles tested, only

2017 Volvo XC60 and 2017 Hyundai Santa Fe earned the top "good" rating, while 12 others were deemed "acceptable." The rest received grades of "marginal" or "poor."

In a similar study last year, the IIHS gave seven out of 11 pickup trucks a poor rating for headlight performance. The group says the test

is important because most shoppers don't test drive vehicles in the dark, dusk or dawn, when half of traffic deaths occur.

SEE THE FULL LIST OF SUVs at <http://www.iihs.org/iihs/news/desktopnews/more-than-half-of-mid-size-suv-headlights-tested-rate-marginal-or-poor>

**2016 STATS, TxDOT**

**OF ALL PERSONS KILLED  
IN 2016**  
**43.71% WERE REPORTED AS  
NOT RESTRAINED**  
WHEN THE FATAL CRASH OCCURRED  
(WHERE RESTRAINT USAGE WAS  
APPLICABLE & KNOWN)

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**987**  
DIED IN CRASHES IN 2016 WHERE  
THE DRIVER WAS **UNDER  
THE INFLUENCE OF  
ALCOHOL --**  
26% OF THE NUMBER KILLED IN  
VEHICLE TRAFFIC CRASHES.

**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

July 28, 29, 30  
September 22, 23, 24  
November 17, 18, 19

**2016 STATS, TxDOT**

**496 MOTORCYCLISTS  
(OPERATORS AND PASSENGERS)  
WERE KILLED IN 2016**

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**53% KILLED WERE  
NOT WEARING HELMETS**  
AT THE TIME OF THE CRASH

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**638 WERE KILLED IN  
HEAD-ON**  
CRASHES AND **814** KILLED  
IN CRASHES OCCURRING IN  
**INTERSECTIONS**  
OR RELATED TO AN INTERSECTION

# 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, within 45 days prior to your expiration date, 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.**

Instructor	Expires	Instructor	Expires	Instructor	Expires
Abundiz, Patricia	25-Aug	Garza, Thomas	23-Sep	Nguyen, John	5-Jul
Amos, B.J.	21-Sep	Hemphill, Jan	14-Aug	Pearson, Mark	18-Aug
Bennett, Richard	29-Sep	Hernandez, Mario	5-Jul	Pham, Thai	28-Jul
Broussard, Alisa	26-Jul	Jackson, Cerese	13-Jul	Ramon, Maria	18-Sep
Cano, Daniel	18-Sep	Jaimes, Katherine	5-Jul	Rodriguez, Blanca	16-Sep
Cervantez, Angie	21-Aug	King, Caroline	7-Aug	Stone, Janet	14-Jul
Chambers, Harold	21-Jul	Long, John	11-Aug	Thomas, Renee	30-Jul
Dark, Daniel	19-Aug	McQuaid, Gary	20-Jul	Turner, Charlotte	18-Jul
Dodgin, Bill	15-Aug	Myers, Lonnie	12-Sep	Vasquez, Daniel	25-Sep
Duval, Mary	24-Jul	Myers, Judy	17-Sep	Vo, The	7-Aug
Edwards, Donald	19-Sep	Myles, Otis	14-Sep	Worley, Charles	12-Sep
Franssen, David	10-Sep	Naqvi, Syed T.	21-Jul	Zibili, Rasheed	15-Jul

### ONLINE COURSE

**USA HAS SEVERAL AFFILIATES THAT OFFER THE USA DRIVER SAFETY COURSE ONLINE. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN ADDING A LINK TO YOUR WEBSITE - CONTACT SARAH JACOBS (SJACOBS@USATRaining.COM) FOR MORE INFORMATION.**

## USA TRAINING COMPANY INC.

8871 Tallwood Dr.



**CEO**  
Janis Helm Cartwright

**President**  
Phil H. Ward

**Staff**  
Lorie Bagwell ♦ Sue Decker ♦ Sarah Jacobs  
Phone: 512-346-2132 ♦ Fax: 512-346-0431

## EMERGENCY CONTACT

In the event USA is experiencing trouble with our phone network, scan your requests and email to

**lbagwell@usatraining.com**



CP 246

**PRE-REGISTRATION FORM**  
**MANDATORY CONTINUING EDUCATION-RETRAIN**

**2017-2018 SCHEDULE**

**PLEASE PRINT:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Driver Safety Instructor License # \_\_\_\_\_ DSI License Expires: \_\_\_\_\_

*Check box for date you plan to attend*

<input type="checkbox"/>	Sept. 9, 2017 (Sat.)	HOUSTON, Liberty Tax Services, 9705 Telephone Rd, Ste D.....	10 am - 12 noon
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sept. 10, 2017 (Sun.)	WAXAHACHIE, Waxahachie Driving School, 106 S Jackson St, Ste 2.....	12 noon- 2 pm
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sept. 10, 2017 (Sun.)	LEWISVILLE, Oneway Driver Training School, 1720 Edmonds #12.....	1 pm- 3 pm
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sept. 12, 2017 (Tues.)	BEAUMONT, 996 West Lucas.....	6:30 pm - 8:30 pm
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sept. 13, 2017 (Wed.)	EL PASO, True Vine Outreach Center, 4424 Arlen.....	6:30 pm - 8:30 pm
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sept. 13, 2017 (Wed.)	NACOGDOCHES, SFA - Police Dept., 232 E. College St.....	2 pm - 4 pm
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sept. 15, 2017 (Fri.)	MIDLAND, Toe Driving Academy Inc. 1000 N. Midkiff, Ste. 4B	2 pm - 4 pm
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sept. 16, 2017 (Sat.)	SAN ANTONIO, HEB Transportation Dept., 5103 Rittiman Rd., Bldg. #4.....	10 am - 12 noon
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sept. 16, 2017 (Sat.)	SOCORRO, ANP Driving School, 657 Horizon Blvd, Ste J.....	2:30 pm - 4:30 pm
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sept. 16, 2017 (Sat.)	ABILENE, 1418 Lawyers Ln.....	10 am - 12 pm
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sept. 20, 2017 (Wed.)	EL PASO, City of El Paso, 5115 El Paso Dr.....	1:30 pm- 3:30 pm
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sept. 20, 2017 (Wed.)	PLANO, 3552 Leathertop Dr.....	5 pm - 7 pm
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sept. 29, 2017 (Fri.)	AUSTIN, 8871 Tallwood Dr.....	10 am - 12 noon
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sept. 30, 2017 (Sat.)	WICHITA FALLS, Texas Driving School, 4018-A Kemp Blvd.....	3:30 - 5:30 pm
<input type="checkbox"/>	Oct. 7, 2017 (Sat.)	KILLEEN, Killeen Driving School, 3810 Trimmier Rd., Ste. 500.....	3:30 pm -5:30 pm
<input type="checkbox"/>	Oct. 15, 2017 (Sun.)	TYLER, China King, 4542 S. Broadway.....	2:30 pm - 4:30 pm
<input type="checkbox"/>	Oct. 20, 2017 (Fri.)	AUSTIN, 8871 Tallwood Dr.....	10 am - 12 noon
<input type="checkbox"/>	Dec. 8, 2017 (Fri.)	AUSTIN, 8871 Tallwood Dr.....	10 am - 12 noon
<input type="checkbox"/>	Dec. 11, 2017 (Mon.)	SAN ANGELO, City Hall, 72 W College Ave.....	2 pm - 4 pm
<input type="checkbox"/>	Jan. 28, 2018 (Sun.)	HOUSTON, Greenway Mediation Center, 3207 Mercer.....	4 pm - 6 pm
<input type="checkbox"/>	Feb. 9, 2018 (Fri.)	AUSTIN, 8871 Tallwood Dr.....	10 am - 12 noon
<input type="checkbox"/>	Apr. 6, 2018 (Fri.)	AUSTIN, 8871 Tallwood Dr.....	10 am - 12 noon
<input type="checkbox"/>	Apr. 21, 2018 (Sat.)	HOUSTON, Golden Corral Restaurant, 13145 Northwest Freeway (290).....	9 am - 11 am
<input type="checkbox"/>	June 8, 2018 (Fri.)	AUSTIN, 8871 Tallwood Dr.....	10 am - 12 noon

*Please complete and mail this registration form along with check for \$10 payable to "USA" to:*

**USA, 8871 Tallwood Dr., Austin, TX 78759**

Make a copy for your records. Your check will not be deposited until you attend.  
 Registration forms must be at USA HQ NO LATER THAN 5 WORKING DAYS before the retrain date so that materials can be prepared/shipped and to receive pre-paid registration price.