



# Quarterly Report

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## Tests show headlights lights may fail to safely illuminate dark roadways

Overdriving your headlights means not being able to stop inside the distance lit by your headlights. It is difficult to judge other vehicles' speeds and distances at night. Do not overdrive your headlights-it creates a blind "crash area" in front of your vehicle. You should be able to stop inside the illuminated area ahead.

Headlights only shine so far ahead. If you drive too fast you may not see dangers in time to react, in essence you are overdriving your headlights or driving too fast at night.

New test results from AAA reveal the potential for significant headlight shortcomings when traveling on roadways that lack overhead lighting, typically America's rural roads, which account for 40 percent of vehicle miles traveled annually. To assess headlight capabilities and limitations and learn what, if any, advantage advanced headlight technologies offer, AAA compared the performance of halogen, high intensity discharge (HID) and light emitting diode (LED) headlights. AAA's test results suggest that halogen headlights, found in over 80 percent of vehicles on the road today, may fail to safely illuminate unlit roadways at speeds as low as 40 mph.

While high-beam settings on halogen headlights improved sight distances by 28 percent at the testing facility, in real-world conditions they may only provide enough light to safely stop at

speeds of up to 48 mph, leaving drivers vulnerable at highway speeds. Despite the clear need for the additional visibility that high-beams offer, particularly on unlit roads, a recent AAA survey found that only a third of Americans admit to using these settings regularly.

Additional testing found that while the advanced headlight technology found in HID and LED headlights illuminated dark roadways 25 percent further than their halogen counter parts, they still may fail to fully illuminate roadways at speeds greater than 45 mph. High-beam settings on these advanced headlights offered significant improvement over low-beam settings, lighting distances of up to 500 feet (equal to 55 mph).

Despite the increase, even the most advanced headlights fall 60 percent short of the sight distances that the full light of day provides.

In addition to testing low-beam and high-beam headlight performance, AAA tested the effect that deteriorated headlight lenses have on light intensity and glare. The protective coating used on the plastics of modern lenses can slowly deteriorate and cloud after about five years, reducing light output and increasing light scatter which results in glare for other drivers. The testing found that restoring headlights doubles the maximum light intensity and reduces glare-producing light scatter by up to 60 percent. Yet, according to a recent AAA survey, only 20 percent of Americans have performed this service.

Deteriorated or dirty headlight lenses are not just an aesthetic issue. An annual service on older vehicles will increase your nighttime visibility and minimize distracting glare for fellow drivers.

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## Hit-and-run crashes on the rise

The AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety is urging drivers to be more cautious about pedestrians and bicyclists on the road, saying the number of hit-and-run fatalities has hit a record high.

"Hit-and-run crashes in the United States are trending in the wrong direction," said David Yang, executive director of the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety. "Our analysis shows that hit-and-run crashes are a growing traffic safety challenge."

Researchers found that hit-and-run fatalities have grown by an average of 7.2 percent each year since 2009. Those outside the vehicle are more likely to be killed in a crash, and almost 65 percent of hit-and-run fatalities in the study period were pedestrians and bicyclists.

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## Driving in reverse on highway

If one driver caught navigating rush hour traffic in reverse doesn't have a job as a stunt driver, they soon might.

In video captured by one of the Ohio Department of Transportation's traffic cameras, the driver of a white SUV is seen backing through at least two traffic lights as it makes its way into a nearby shopping complex before parking in a Kroger parking lot.

Officials with ODOT said they were watching the area because of heavy traffic when they noticed the SUV backing up into the grassy median. They suspected his transmission went out and he had no other choice but to back up.

The entire sequence was 1.2 miles long and lasted approximately 4 minutes. ODOT said they're grateful no one was hurt and if your vehicle isn't running properly, to pull over and call for assistance.

*To watch the backwards vehicle here's the link:*

<http://video.foxnews.com/v/5794007251001/?#sp=show-clips>

## Roadside Assistance

The following is a summary of the AAA Roadside Assistance provisions. Members must present a valid AAA membership card or dues receipt and another form of matching photo identification, such as a driver's license, to the service driver when the independent service provider's vehicle arrives. Roadside assistance service is available only to the person named on the membership card who is the driver of or a passenger in the vehicle at the time of the covered vehicle disablement. Unless a valid AAA membership card and identification are presented at the time of service, the mem-

ber is expected to pay for the service provided at commercial rates.

### Services provided:

- \* Minor mechanical first aid
- \* Flat tire service
- \* Battery jump-start
- \* AAA battery service
- \* Emergency fuel delivery
- \* Extrication/wincing service
- \* Vehicle lockout/locksmith service
- \* Towing service

*For a comparison of roadside assistance services here's the link:*

<https://www.toptenreviews.com/services/auto/best-roadside-assistance-services/>



## Children's car seat recommendations changed

The American Academy of Pediatrics is changing its recommendations on when it is okay for your child to no longer use a car seat.

Those recommendations were originally based on age, but that doesn't matter as much anymore. There is new evidence about rear-facing car seats, which are the safest car seats for your child. Instead of using them until a child is two, the seat now says pay attention to your child's weight. It has now been extended up to four years of age and up to about 35 pounds.

Once your child is in a forward-facing seat, use it until they exceed the weight limit - usually around 50 pounds. When that happens, start using a booster seat. When they're too big for that, make sure they're always buckled up.

The Academy of Pediatrics is now recommending that kids ride in the back until 13 years of age. It's hard for those adolescents, but it's safer.

Current state law only requires children to be in a car seat until age four. It does not say which way the seat has to face. If you break that law, you'll be fined \$25 to \$100 and get three points on your license.

The New York infant seat laws have changed significantly. Governor Andrew Cuomo signed a law that requires all children under 2, regardless of height and weight (with some exceptions in extreme cases), to ride in a rear-facing car seat for safety reasons. This new law will take effect November 1, 2019.

# RETRAIN

**Check your expiration date! All Driving Safety Instructors must possess a current drivers license and attend a recertification class every 2 years. PLAN AHEAD**

*The following dates have been scheduled. Call trainers with any questions & to enroll*

Date: **October 7, 2018**  
Time: 10:30 a.m.  
Location: Allstate Insurance  
595 West Jericho Trpk.  
**Huntington, NY**  
Contact: Jim Meehan  
718-383-9259

Date: **November 15, 2018**  
Time: 10:30 a.m.  
Location: 84-50 Grand Ave.  
**Elmhurst, NY**  
Contact: Jim Meehan  
718-383-9259

**MORE UPCOMING RETRAIN CLASSES IN STATEN ISLAND - SEE LOCATION & DATES BELOW:**

Location: The DiForte Agency  
3871 Amboy Road  
Condo Bldg., 1st Floor  
**Staten Island, NY**  
Contact: Mary Ann Loiacono  
917-208-1910  
safetym1@aol.com

Date: **October 14, 2018**  
Time: 9:00 a.m.

Date: **October 27, 2018**  
Time: 8:00 a.m.

Date: **November 18, 2018**  
Time: 9:00 a.m.

Date: **December 15, 2018**  
Time: 8:00 a.m.



## 10 things you should never do to your car

- 1) Never overfill the tires to "get better gas mileage"
- 2) Never use the wrong coolant/antifreeze
- 3) Never mix up brake fluid and power steering fluid
- 4) Never use a "universal" fluid in your power steering or transmission
- 5) Never disconnect a battery cable to test the alternator
- 6) Never drive when your oil light is lit
- 7) Never drive with less than a quarter tank of gas
- 8) Never use the wrong oil
- 9) Never use dishwashing detergent to wash your car
- 10) Never neglect to change your oil

### GOOD QUESTION!

Why is it that people say they 'slept like a baby' when babies wake up like every two hours?

If a deaf person has to go to court, is it still called a hearing?

Why are you IN a movie, but you're ON TV?



### 2018-2019 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE USA TRAINING

*USA Training Company will be closed on the following dates:*

**Oct. 8 (Monday) - Columbus Day**

**Nov. 12 (Monday) - Veterans Day Observed**

**Nov. 22 & 23 (Thursday/Friday) - Thanksgiving**

**Dec. 24, 25 & 26 (Monday, Tuesday, Wed.) Christmas**

### 2019

**January 1 (Tuesday) - New Years Day**

**January 21 (Monday)- Martin Luther King Jr. Day**

**Feb. 18 (Monday) -President's Day**

## Toyota and Lexus recall

Toyota Motor North America Inc. announced a safety recall in the U.S. of approximately 6,000 model year 2018 Camry and Highlander vehicles and model year 2017 Sienna, Tacoma and Lexus RX350 vehicles. The recall involves a vacuum pump assembly which may have been manufactured incorrectly. This vacuum pump provides braking assistance. Toyota and Lexus dealers will replace the vacuum pump at no cost to customers.

Owners should have received notice as of May 2018.

# Safety tips

## Inspect your Vehicle

- Get regular maintenance on your vehicle such as tune-ups, oil changes, battery checks and tire rotations.
- Tires: check your tire pressure at least once a month--including your spare. Check for irregular or excessive tread wear.
- Belts/Hoses: check for blistered, cracked or damaged belts and hoses and check all connections.
- Wiper Blades: check for wear and tear.
- Fluid Levels: check oil, brake, transmission, power steering, coolant and windshield washer fluid.
- Lights: check headlights, brake lights, turn signals, emergency flashers and interior lights.

## Drive Safely

- Never drive distracted. Remember, using a handheld mobile device while driving is illegal except in emergency situations.
- Never drive impaired and report drunk or dangerous drivers.
- Don't drive fatigued (make sure to take frequent breaks).

## Pack an Emergency Roadside Kit

Potential items include:

- cell phone
- maps
- first aid kit
- nonperishable food/water/medicine
- car jack
- work gloves
- repair tools
- flashlight
- flares
- jumper cables

## Buckle Up! Every Trip... Every Time.

- Make sure to properly install all child safety seats and never leave children alone in a vehicle.

## Share the Road Responsibly

- Warmer weather attracts different types of roadway users, including motorcyclists, bicyclists and pedestrians.
- Drive safely through any road construction--use caution and be alert.
- Check road conditions before driving by dialing 511.



## Flying in your future?

Soon you will need a REAL ID to board a flight within the U.S. **if you do not have a passport or Enhanced Driver License (EDL).** According to the federal REAL ID Act, beginning on October 1, 2020, those wishing to fly within the U.S. using their New York State-issued license or ID card will need a REAL ID or Enhanced Driver License.

DMV is encouraging all New Yorkers, especially those renewing or getting a license or ID for the first time, to **get a REAL ID now.** For more information about REAL ID and Enhanced Driver Licenses, visit [dmv.ny.gov/REALID](http://dmv.ny.gov/REALID) to learn everything you need to know.

REAL ID is available at DMV offices statewide. The cost is the same as a standard license, which is now marked *Not for Federal Purposes*. It will require a trip to the DMV to get a photo taken and present the required documents. To ensure you have all the documents you need before your visit, DMV has created a document guide that will walk you through what you need to bring to the office. Find it at [dmv.ny.gov/documentguide](http://dmv.ny.gov/documentguide). Proof documents must be presented in person at a DMV office. Avoid the rush and get a REAL ID now. **Share info with your students!**

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