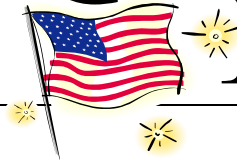




# Quarterly Report



VOLUME 26, NUMBER 4

October 2018

## 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 counterparts, 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.

## 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.

# 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 Texas 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

member 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/winch 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.

### 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**



### 2018-2019 IDC SCHEDULE

*(Instructor Development Course)*

*TDLR reduced the hours for IDC from 24 hours to 16 hours -- which makes it a 2-day class instead of 3-day.*

**Saturday and Sunday  
 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. both days  
 \$100**

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

### 2018

**November 17 & 18**

### 2019

**January 26 & 27**

**March 23 & 24**

**May 18 & 19**

**July 27 & 28**

**September 28 & 29**

**November 16 & 17**

# Driver 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
- work gloves
- flashlight
- flares
- jumper cables
- car jack
- repair tools

## 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.

## Special discount!

USA has partnered with CapeSchool. CapeSchool will offer USA instructors interested in INSURANCE pre-licensing courses or needing continuing education a 20% discount on tuition. Discount is built into the links below. Sign up at: <https://usatraining.capeschool.com/ins/>

## 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

## From the Church Bulletin

Weight Watchers will meet at 7 PM at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use the large double door at the side.

# 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, 2018 and ending August 31, 2019.**

### AUSTIN

USA HQ, 8871 Tallwood Dr.

All classes are 11 am - 1pm

Oct. 19, 2018 (Fri.)

Dec. 7, 2018 (Fri.)

Feb. 8, 2019 (Fri.)

Apr. 5, 2019 (Fri.)

June 7 2019 (Fri.)

### BEAUMONT

Dumas Tax Services

2550 Concord Rd.

Jan 6, 2019 (Sun), 2 pm - 4 pm

### HOUSTON

Golden Corral Restaurant

13145 Northwest Frwy

Apr. 20, 2019 (Sat.), 8:30 am - 10:30 am

### TYLER

China King, 4542 S. Broadway

Oct. 14, 2018 (Sun.), 2:30 pm - 4:30 pm



*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>	<i>Instructor</i>	<i>Expires</i>
Albert, J.W.	8-Nov	Glady, Burdett	28-Nov	Mullins, Gary	23-Oct	Vasquez, John	13-Nov
Alexander, Laslyn	14-Nov	Hayes, Wanda	2-Oct	Oladejo, Rotimi	20-Oct	Walch, Graylon	12-Oct
Bell, Lowell	14-Dec	Hill, Luke	16-Dec	Patterson, Willie	21-Dec	Watson, Don	23-Oct
Cardenas, Benjamin	11-Dec	Honeycutt, Richard	28-Dec	Pena, Adan	31-Dec	Wilkin, Dawn	5-Nov
Chatman, Jake	1-Nov	Howard, Eric	19-Dec	Phillips, Ronald	22-Oct	Williams, Lewis	30-Oct
Chatman, Donald	30-Nov	Howard, Connie	19-Dec	Postert, Brenda	25-Oct	Williams, Thomas	16-Nov
Crocker, Jill	18-Oct	Isaac, Staffon	1-Nov	Quiroz, Anthony	14-Nov	Young, Brenda	7-Oct
Darter, David	31-Dec	Joshi, Ilaben	24-Oct	Rabelo, Juan	31-Oct		
Decker, Sue	16-Dec	Kennedy, Amanda	5-Nov	Reyes, Juan	17-Oct		
Esikhati, Carolyn	10-Dec	Kibble, Rodney	29-Nov	Rivers, Chris	3-Nov		
Esikhati, Tom	10-Dec	Le, Tina	1-Nov	Salazar, Edith	3-Dec		
Evans, Valina	16-Oct	Le, Huy	14-Nov	Segura, Donna	12-Oct		
Frishman, Leigh	28-Oct	Matthews, John	31-Dec	Solis, Juan	5-Dec		
Ganiyu, Yesir	31-Oct	McCary, Vance	7-Oct	Sullivan, Michael	27-Oct		
Garcia, Frank	17-Oct	Mizell, Sandra	31-Oct	Sweeney, Paul	4-Nov		

**GOOD QUESTION!**

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

**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**