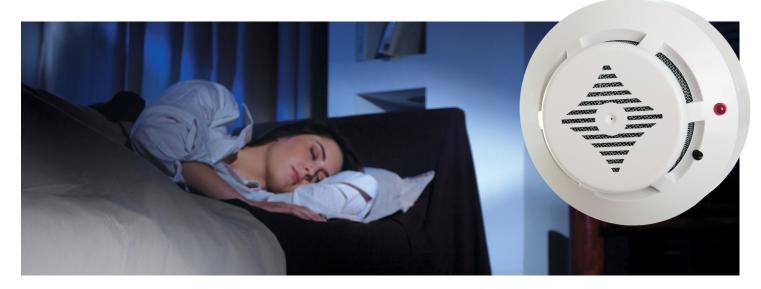


A Quarterly Newsletter from the Somerset County Joint Insurance Fund featuring Safety, Health & Wellness



HEAR THE BEEP WHERE YOU SLEEP

SOURCE: WWW.NFPA.ORG/EDUCATION

Smoke alarms are a key part of a home fire escape plan. When there is a fire, smoke spreads fast. Working smoke alarms give you early warning so you can get outside quickly.

- Install smoke alarms inside and outside each bedroom and sleeping area. Install alarms on every level of the home. Install alarms in the basement.
- Large homes may need extra smoke alarms.
- It is best to use interconnected smoke alarms. When one smoke alarm sounds they all sound.
- Test all smoke alarms at least once a month. Press the test button to be sure the alarm is working.
- There are two kinds of alarms. Ionization smoke alarms are quicker to warn about flaming fires. Photoelectric alarms are quicker to warn about smoldering fires. It is best to use both types of alarms in the home.
- A smoke alarm should be on the ceiling or high on a wall. Keep smoke alarms away from the kitchen to reduce false alarms. They should be at least 10 feet (3 meters) from the stove.
- People who are hard-of-hearing or deaf can use special alarms. These alarms have strobe lights and bed shakers.
- Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old.

FACT: Roughly 3 out of 5 fire deaths happen in homes with no smoke alarms or the alarms are not working.



THANKSGIVING SAFETY

SOURCE: WWW.NFPA.ORG/EDUCATION

The kitchen is the heart of the home, especially at Thanksgiving. Kids love to be involved in holiday preparations. Safety in the kitchen is important, especially on Thanksgiving when there is a lot of activity and people at home.

- Stay in the kitchen when cooking so you can keep an eye on the food.
- Stay in the home when cooking your turkey and check on it frequently.
- Keep children away from the stove. Kids should stay at least 3 feet away.
- Make sure kids stay away from hot food and liquids. The steam or splash from vegetables, gravy or coffee could cause serious burns.
- Keep the floor clear so you don't trip over kids, toys, pocketbooks or bags.
- Keep knives out of the reach of children.
- Be sure electric cords from an electric knife, coffee maker, plate warmer or mixer are not dangling off the counter within easy reach of a child.
- Keep matches and utility lighters out of the reach of children up high in a locked cabinet. Never leave children alone in a room with a lit candle.

STRESS MANAGEMENT

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Learning __-management skills makes your day go more smoothly Even 20 minutes of ___ or Ta Chi is good for the body and mind Schedule time to _____ - take a walk, go to the gym, read a book, garden Doctors recommend getting at least eight hours of _____ Smoking, drinking, over- or under-___ are not good coping methods Long-term stress can be detrimental to your ____ system Know your ___ and say 'no' if you have to Having a strong _____ network of friends and family helps reduce stress Several times a day take time to ____ deeply and relax your muscles and forget is a good motto for a less stressful life Guided _____ takes you to your happy place, no matter where you are Getting a ____ or taking a hot bath with scented candles is always nice _ conditions like asthma, acne, and chronic pain can add to stress Work, family, finances, relationships could all be ____ of stress If stress is too much, one-on-one counseling or group __ may help Reducing __ and sugar intake will help you avoid 'crashing' Bottling up your __ is not a good idea It has been said that __ is the best medicine, so watch a comedy Pollyanna had it right - sometimes you need to focus on the ____ You can change your ____ to a stressor by adapting or accepting it Some ___, like procrastination or worrying too much, can lead to stress Make __ changes like exercising regularly and eating healthy Try changing the stressful __ by avoiding or altering the stressor Sometimes you need to ___ and find the middle ground in a problem ____ can help you express your feelings and identify stress situations _ techniques help you relax and quiet your mind, body and emotions Making a to-do list helps you __ what needs to be done



PUT THE BRAKES ON FATALITIES DAY

SOURCE: WWW.ASCE.ORG

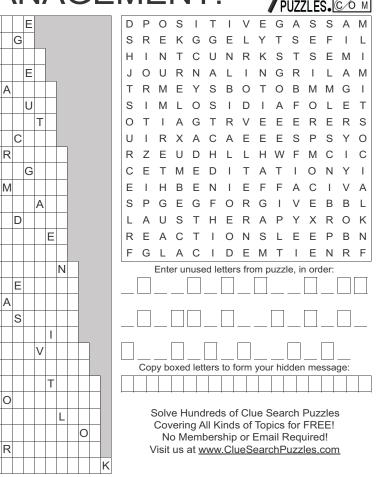
A report released by the National Highway & Transportation Administration (NHTSA) estimated there were over 32,675 traffic



fatalities in 2014. Imagine a day with zero traffic deaths where all drivers make an effort to "Put the Brakes on Fatalities!"

The 16th annual Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day will be celebrated on October 10, 2015 by promoting the theme "Don't be Driven to Distraction-Drive to Arrive". October was selected for the Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day observance because it is among the peak months for traffic fatalities. In fact, October 9th was the most dangerous day of the year to be on the road in 1999: 207 people died in traffic crashes according to the NHTSA. February 22nd was the safest day to be on the road that year: 50 were killed in motor vehicle crashes.

The goal is to unite the country in achieving one full day of zero traffic deaths by encouraging safer behavior and actions, promoting safer roadways and vehicles, and creating improved ways to handle medical emergencies and enforcement of traffic regulations. Motor vehicle fatalities are the leading cause of death for all Americans from three to fourteen years old. Whether as a driver, passenger,



pedestrian, motorcyclist, cyclist or professional, by working together in a concerted effort, we can make a difference by reducing to zero the number of fatalities occurring on our nation's roads.

First and foremost, we must be attentive when we drive. Eliminating distractions such as text messaging and talking on a cell phone, never driving when drowsy, always driving defensively and obeying the speed limits, sharing the road with other vehicles like motorcycles, bicycles, and trucks, slowing down in bad weather and in construction and school zones, and not drinking while driving are just a few examples of how drivers can reduce their chances of being in a crash. Other important safety practices include buckling up every time you begin a trip, using appropriate child safety seats, wearing a helmet when bicycling, motorcycling, or skating, and crossing the street in crosswalks.

CAR DRIVERS | Never drink and drive!

MOTORCYCLE DRIVERS | Watch the "No-Zones". Never hang out in a truck's blind spot or "No-Zone".

TRUCK AND BUS DRIVERS | Take care of yourself. Get plenty of rest before getting behind the wheel, eat well and stay fit!

PEDESTRIANS | You may think vehicles will stop for you, but they may not see you or be able to stop. Never take a chance with a truck. Truck brakes and gears are notorious for sticking.

BICYCLISTS | Ride with traffic. Ride on the right side, with the flow of traffic.



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