



July 2023

Traffic Safety Newsletter Speed Prevention

SAFE SUMMER ROADS '23

Speed endangers everyone on the road and the costs of speeding are immense. In 2021, there were 12,330 speeding-related deaths in the United States. Speeding was a contributing factor in 29% of all fatal crashes nationally. 51% of speeding drivers in fatal crashes in 2021 were not wearing their seat belts. Men 15-20 years old comprise 35% of those driving, speeding, and involved in fatal crashes.

Local roads are more dangerous than highways for speeders: In 2020, 87% of all speeding-related traffic fatalities on American roads occurred on non-interstate roadways. For Delaware:

- In 2022, 50% of drivers responsible for speed-related crashes were aged 29 or younger.
- The highest number of speed-related crashes occur between 11:00 am and 8:00 pm.
- Over the last five years, 57% of speed-related fatal crashes in Delaware occurred on a Friday, Saturday, or Sunday.

- Over the last five years, speeding was a factor in 33% of all fatal crashes.
- Over the last five years, 76% of speeding drivers have had some type of injury in crashes.
- Speed has been a factor in 47% of fatal crashes so far in 2023.

The 100 Deadliest Days of Summer is the time frame between Memorial Day and Labor Day, during which traffic volume and crashes increase. To help make Delaware roadways safer, OHS is providing education on safe driving practices and the importance of obeying the speed limit. OHS is also working with state and local law enforcement to conduct speed-limit enforcement to reduce the number of crashes and fatalities. You can help spread our safety message by sharing this newsletter and our social media posts with your family, friends, coworkers, and employees.

Reasons You Shouldn't Speed

driving faster

could lead to

DISASTER



**SPEEDING CATCHES
UP WITH YOU**



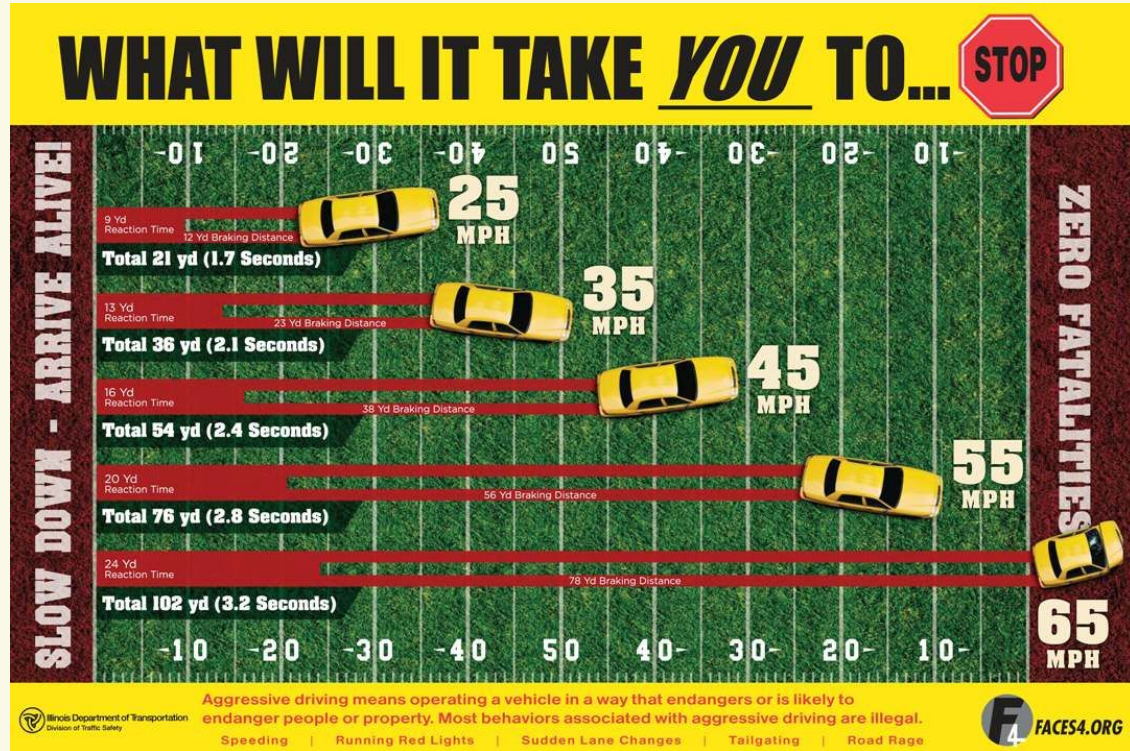
Speed limits are put into place to protect all road users. Speeding is a type of aggressive driving behavior. There's never a good reason to speed. Here are some good reasons not to speed:

- You may lose control of your vehicle. The faster you go, the greater chance you'll lose control. Roadways may not be engineered for speed greater than posted speeds.
- It will take you longer to stop your vehicle. Increased speeds extend the distance required to stop the vehicle, which could lead to fatal consequences. Check out the stopping distance chart from the Illinois Department of Transportation below.
- The more you exceed the speed limit, the greater the fines.
- Crash severity increases with speed. Speeding increases the risk of bodily injury and vehicle damage.
- By speeding, you overdrive your headlights at night. Limited visibility puts you at a higher risk for a crash.
- Increased speeds increase your fuel consumption. You'll be visiting the pump more often if you speed.
- Speeding makes it harder for other drivers around you to

react, increasing your likelihood of a collision. Not all drivers have the same reaction times, especially novice and senior drivers.

- Faster doesn't mean safer. The time of arrival on your GPS is just an estimate, and there is no prize for "beating" that time. If you crash, your arrival time will be delayed indefinitely.

Do you know the speed limits on Delaware's roadways? [Click here](#) to see the speed limits in Delaware (unless otherwise posted).



Learn More

How to Deal With Speed Demons

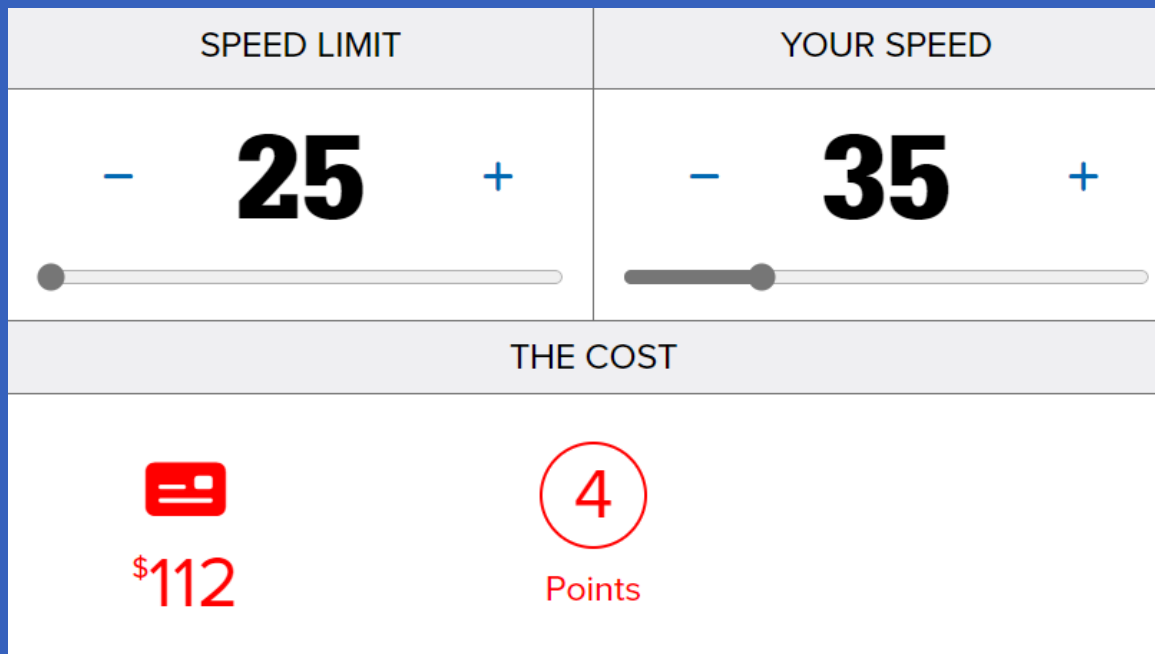


Be on the lookout for speeding drivers. You can not control what they are doing, but you have the ability to control what is happening inside your own vehicle. Here are some tips to keep yourself safe around speeders:

- Move over. If you are in the left lane and someone wants to pass, move over and let them by.
- Keep your distance. Speeding drivers are at a higher risk of losing control of their vehicle. Give them plenty of space to avoid a collision.
- Pay attention. Be prepared to react if the speeding driver loses control of their vehicle or causes a crash.
- Avoid engaging. Don't entice road rage by interacting with the speeding driver. This will make you a distracted driver, adding more risk to the situation.
- Call the police. If a speeding driver is following you or harassing you, report them when your vehicle is stopped and it is safe to make a call.

[Learn More](#)

The Costs of Speeding



The costs of speeding are multifaceted. On a personal level, you could be looking at fines and points on your license, increased insurance costs, and possibly time away from work to attend court. Click on the image above to use our speed calculator. As an employer, speeding will cost you on a larger scale. You are looking at higher insurance on an entire fleet of vehicles, more maintenance on vehicles, and employees missing time from work, leaving you short staffed. Encourage your employees to take a pledge to obey speed limits and drive safe.

Do Your Part



Reducing speed-related crashes starts with you. By following posted speed limits, you are setting the example not only with your passengers, but with others around you. Be the change you want to see on Delaware roadways. Take a personal pledge to not speed and then encourage your family, friends, coworkers, and employees to do the same. Click on the image above to print your pledge sticker or copy the image and share it on your social media. Employers can print multiple copies and have employees take the pledge to not speed.

Traffic Safety Spotlight

Paramedics Jessica Baker and Chynna Madison have seen firsthand what happens when too much confidence and too little respect for the responsibility of driving affect the choices we make. Speeding, not wearing a seat belt, and even being too tired to focus can all have devastating effects. And all it takes is one time.

Thank You

The Delaware Office of Highway Safety would like to extend our gratitude and thanks to all of our corporate partners! We would love to highlight partners who share our traffic safety mission or have a similar traffic safety mission. Who are we missing? Share groups that we need to connect with to aubrey.klick@delaware.gov.

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