



New Traffic Laws in Place for 2018



A new law will require automobile dealers to remove decals, signs, and paperwork from the windows and windshields of cars before allowing customers to test drive the vehicle. The bill for this law first surfaced after Brenden Burke died in a traffic accident in which a driver's vision was obscured by paperwork taped on the windows of a car that the driver was test-driving.

This "Burke's Law" is one of over 200 changes to Illinois laws that will have taken effect as of January 1, 2018. Among

Source: <https://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/newlaws18.pdf>.

these changes are a few new laws regarding traffic safety rules for the Illinois roads. Please see the side panel "New Laws Digest" on the right for more Illinois road safety laws that went into effect on January 1.

The Illinois Secretary of State website has a detailed summary of all additions and changes to Illinois rules of the road effective January 2018 available at <https://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/newlaws18.pdf>.

NEW LAWS DIGEST

- Illinois extends invitations to 16- and 17-year-old licensed drivers to join the First Person Consent Organ/Tissue Donor Registry program. Previously, only drivers 18 years old or above were allowed to join the organ donor registry.
- Training for commercial motor vehicles (CMVs) and the Illinois Rules of the Road for CMVs must now disseminate information on human trafficking.
- A new bill classifies low-speed electric bicycles into three classes based on speed.
- Drivers may now pass to the left of a bicycle even in a no-passing zone as long as certain speed conditions are met.

Meet the New Traffic Intelligence Officer



Greetings! My name is Kai Funahashi, the new Traffic Intelligence Officer (TIO) at the Statewide Terrorism & Intelligence Center (STIC).

I received my Bachelor of Science Degree in Meteorology at Northern Illinois University (NIU) and am projected to complete my Master of Science Degree in Geography in May from NIU. I had the opportunity to work in the field of geographic information systems (GIS) with organizations including the City

of DeKalb and NIU's Geovisual Mapping Laboratory. My research interests include the impact of weather on travel and safety.

I will be the primary author for the monthly Traffic Intelligence Newsletter. As the new TIO, I look forward to collaborating with the Illinois State Police, STIC, the Illinois Department of Transportation, Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police, and local agencies to apply my GIS training and to advance traffic safety measures in Illinois. If you have any questions, comments, and requests, please feel free to contact me any time.

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Alcohol-Related Fatalities Nearly Steady

WINTER DRIVING TIPS

When driving in the winter, be wary of the road conditions and your surroundings.

- Drive slower and increase following distance.
- Make sure all windows are cleared of snow and fog before driving. Make sure headlights and taillights are visible as well.
- Avoid abruptly braking. Sudden breaking can lead to skidding, increasing the risk for collision.
- When crossing bridges or making turns, do so slowly. Slips tend to occur over bridges and when making turns.
- Refrain from using cruise control when roads are wet and/or precipitation is falling.
- Keep blankets, a safety kit, and drinking water in your vehicle in case your vehicle becomes stranded.
- Should your vehicle become stranded, prevent carbon monoxide poisoning by opening a window and, if possible, make sure that your vehicle's tailpipe is not blocked.

Source: cyberdriveillinois.com



According to the National Highway and Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), alcohol-related traffic fatalities for the past ten years, 2007–2016, in the United States show that although the alcohol-related fatality rate decreased between 2007 and 2012, the fatality rates have re-

mained steady from 2012 to 2016. The overall fatality rates related to alcohol decreased from 43 percent to 33 percent between 2007 and 2016.

The largest decrease was between 2007 and 2008, with a drop in fatality rates from 43 percent to 39 percent (1,330 fewer fatalities).

However, since 2010, fatality rates have stayed between 33 percent and 35 percent (between 9,800 and 10,500 fatalities) each year. The highest occurred in 2007 with over 13,000 deaths. The lowest number of fatalities was in 2011 with 9,865 fatalities related to alcohol.



FATAL ACCIDENTS AND FATALITY RATES PER 100 MILLION VEHICULAR MILES TRAVELLED FOR ALCOHOL-RELATED TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS. FATAL CRASHES AND FATALITY RATES HAVE BEEN STEADY FOR THE PAST FIVE YEARS AFTER A STEADY DECREASE FROM 2007 TO 2011.

SOURCE: FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION (FHWA).

Source: Source: 2016 Alcohol-Impaired Driving Traffic Safety Fact Sheet (DOT HS# 812 450)

I-PASS Ending Tollway Discount for Frequent “Forgetters”

Calling all Illinois Tollway users: Make sure you have your I-PASS device on your windshield when travelling on the tollways.

This year, Illinois Tollway’s I-PASS begins a new rule that takes away the I-PASS user discount if you forget to place your I-PASS on your car and have to pay for your tolls online more than five times in one month. This new policy is designed to encourage drivers to readily have their I-PASS devices on their automobile when passing through the I-PASS tolls.

Before, the I-PASS user discount was indefinitely allotted to all I-PASS users even if they had forgot-



ten their device multiple times and have had to pay the toll fees online afterward. Thankfully, the count will reset at the end of each month, so if the discount becomes void for a “forgetful” I-PASS user, they will get their discount back next month.

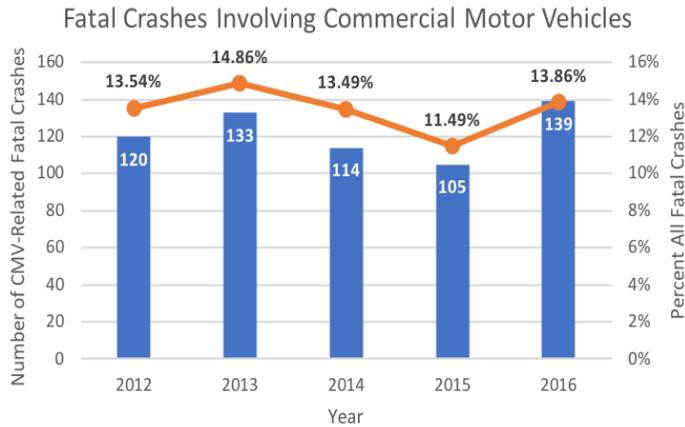
Source: Illinois Policy [Available at <https://www.illinoispolicy.org/forget-your-i-pass-prepare-to-see-tolls-double/>]

Fatal Crashes Involving CMVs Rising?

Traffic fatalities involving commercial motor vehicles (CMVs) on Illinois roads decreased between 2013 and 2015, but 2016 data suggests that CMV-related traffic fatalities are rising again, according to the Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS).

In the past five years, CMV-related fatal crashes accounted for 10 to 15 percent of all fatal crashes in Illinois. Between 2013 and 2015, CMV-related fatal crashes decreased from 133 to 105 fatal crashes on Illinois roads. However, 2016 data recorded 139 crashes, the highest number of fatal crashes involving CMVs since 2007. The 139 crashes accounted for 13 percent of all fatal crashes in Illinois. 2013 recorded the highest percentage, with 14 percent of all fatal crashes involving CMVs.

CMVs are defined by IDOT as



TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS INVOLVING COMMERCIAL MOTOR VEHICLES (CMVs) HAVE INCREASED BETWEEN 2016 AND 2017 AFTER A STREAK OF DECREASING CMV-RELATED TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS BETWEEN 2013 AND 2015. SOURCE: FATALITY ANALYSIS REPORTING SYSTEM, FEDERAL HIGHWAY TRANSPORTATION SAFETY ADMINISTRATION

motor vehicles that are designed to either transport heavy property or equipment, a large number of passengers or hazardous material. They can weigh over 10,000 pounds.

Common hazards especially associated with CMVs are their blind spots due to their size as well as their extended stopping distance due to their weight.

Source: Fatality Analysis Reporting System, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Update on the Takata Airbag Recall

Road Safety and Business



Takata Corporation's airbag recall is still ongoing. In May of 2016, Takata began recalling vehicles for airbag issues that could cause the airbag's inflator apparatus for the driver's, the front passenger's, or for both airbags, to rupture, potentially causing injuries to passengers and drivers. As of January 2018, over 34 million vehicles and a total of over 46 million air bags have been recalled and 15 fatalities have been linked to defective Takata airbags.

The NHTSA reports that vehicles with the highest risk are 2001–03 models of Honda and Acura.

However, many other car models from 19 automobile makers have also been recalled. Vehicle owners can visit the NHTSA website to look up if their vehicle is on the list; these vehicles are eligible for a free repair of their airbags. Takata estimates that the recall process will conclude in 2019.

Source: NHTSA [Available at <https://www.nhtsa.gov/recall-spotlight/takata-air-bags>]; Consumer Reports [Available at <https://www.consumerreports.org/cro/news/2016/05/everything-you-need-to-know-about-the-takata-air-bag-recall/index.htm>]

Year-To-Date Traffic Fatality Statistics

January 28, 2018

65 Accidents*
71 Fatalities*

On this day last year:

62 Accidents
65 Fatalities

3 Over

Fatalities Change

*Provisional, subject to change

Last Month's Weather Digest

December, 2017
Springfield, IL

Average High: 40.4°F
2.1°F warmer than normal

Average Low: 20.8°F
1.7°F cooler than normal

Total Precipitation: 0.37 in.
2.15 in. drier than normal

Total Snow: 4.1 in.
1.5 in. less than normal

Source: National Weather Service
Lincoln, IL





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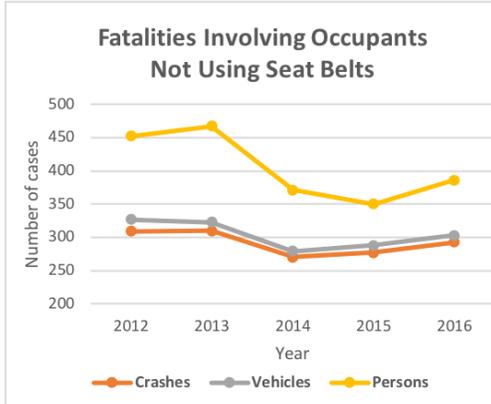
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Rock Island to Enforce Proper Seat Belt Use



THE NUMBER OF FATAL CRASHES INVOLVED WITH LACK OF SEAT BELT USE DECREASED BETWEEN 2013 AND 2015, BUT THE NUMBER INCREASED AGAIN BETWEEN 2015 AND 2016. DATA SOURCE: FATALITY ANALYSIS REPORTING SYSTEM

Illinois State Police (ISP) District 7 announced that they will commence Occupant Restraint Enforcement Patrols (OREP), a program that enforces proper seat belt use for drivers and occupants, for Rock Island County. ISP reports that up to 14,000 lives are saved as a result of proper use of safety belts and, on the other hand, up to half of all traffic fatalities involved unrestrained victims.

Based on data from the Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS), over the past five years, the number of fatalities and fatal crashes in Illinois related with seat belt misuse has decreased overall.

The largest number of fatalities involving lack of seat belt use was in 2013, when 467 people died while without seat belt use. The lowest number was in 2015, when 350 died while without using a seat belt.

Source: The Dispatch. [Available at http://qconline.com/news/local/illinois-state-police-to-conduct-occu...forcement-patrols/article_535d5743-4979-580d-a9b8-4a10834a68be.html.] FARS

Springfield Crashes Decreasing

Statewide totals estimate over 1,011 fatal crashes in Illinois for 2017, 11 more than the 1,000 fatal crashes that occurred in 2016. However, in Springfield, the number of traffic accidents decreased from 5,585 in 2016 to less than 5,300 crashes in 2017. Fatal crashes halved from six to three.

This decrease in traffic accidents may be a result of increased patrolling by the Springfield police to make sure drivers are taking the necessary precautions to avoid collisions. Specifically, officers targeted five factors that are often associated with traffic accidents: speeding, distracted driving (e.g. cell phone use), ignoring traffic signals, not wearing restraining devices, and driving while under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Patrolling is an effective way to encourage drivers to use caution and avoid distractions and capricious impulses when driving so that they do not get stopped for any traffic violations.

Source: FOX Illinois. [Available at <http://foxillinois.com/news/local/crashes-drop-in-springfield-following-increased-patrol-01-22-2018>.]

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