



VISALIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

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NEWS RELEASE
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National Teen Driver Safety Week is October 19-25 ***Parents are key to keeping kids safe behind the wheel***

During National Teen Driver Safety Week, Visalia PD encourages parents and caregivers to talk with their teens about safe driving habits and the [Rules of the Road](#) before handing over the keys.

Car crashes are a leading cause of death for teens (15-18 years old) in the United States. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, in 2023, there were [2,611 people killed in crashes](#) involving a teen driver. In 2023, [465 people were killed in crashes on California roads](#) involving drivers aged 20 or younger, accounting for nearly 11.5% of fatalities in traffic crashes.

Visalia PD reminds parents and caregivers to discuss the dangers of risky driving behaviors like speeding, texting while driving, or not wearing a seat belt. Teens should also understand the serious dangers of driving under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs.

Visalia PD offers the following tips to parents and guardians for starting conversations about safe driving with teens:

- Provisional Driver's License: Learn about California's [provisional licensing law](#), which places restrictions on passengers and driving at night during the first year they have a license.
- Lead by example: Have driving sessions with your teen. Tell, but also show, your teen how to drive safely.
- Set ground rules: Be firm on rules such as no phone use, eliminating distractions by friends, always following the speed limit, and always buckling up. Create a [parent-teen driving contract](#) to outline specific driving guidelines.
- Sober driving: Emphasize the importance of never driving impaired or riding with someone who has been driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

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