



# DAVIS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Davis County Courthouse Complex  
PO Box 618  
Farmington, Utah 84025

**For Immediate Release:**  
Tuesday, July 27, 2010  
DCHD NR 2010-022

**Contact:**  
Bob Ballew  
Public Information Officer  
Office: (801) 451-3501  
Cell: (801) 510-5710

## Administration

Lewis R. Garrett, M.P.H.  
Director of Health  
Courthouse Annex  
50 East State Street  
Tel: (801) 451-3351  
Fax: (801) 451-3242

## Environmental Health Services Division

David W. Spence,  
M.B.A., E.H.S.  
Associate Director  
Courthouse Annex  
50 East State Street  
Tel: (801) 451-3354  
Fax: (801) 451-3242

## Family Health & Senior Services Division

Sally Kershnik,  
R.N., M.P.A.  
Associate Director  
Courthouse Annex  
50 East State Street  
Tel: (801) 451-3354  
Fax: (801) 451-3242

## Communicable Disease & Epidemiology Division

Brian Hatch,  
M.P.H., E.H.S.  
Associate Director  
Courthouse Annex  
50 East State Street  
Tel: (801) 451-3351  
Fax: (801) 451-3242

## News Release

### Partners Focus On Teen Driving Safety

(Farmington, Utah) – Getting a driver’s license may be one of the most anticipated days for youth during the teen years. While driving can open a new world of freedom and fun, it also can bring devastating results according to local health and state safety officials.

“A crash involving a teen driver happens every 35 minutes in Utah,” said Lewis Garrett, director of the Davis County Health Department. “We can’t rely on chance to keep our teens safe. We will aggressively continue to stress proven safe-driving techniques.”

According to Chris Bateman, a community health educator with the county’s health department, “62 occupants ages 15 to 24 were killed in motor vehicle crashes last year in Utah.”

Teens can avoid becoming a statistic this summer by following a few simple safety steps offered by the Utah Highway Safety Office, said Bateman. “The most important thing you can do when getting into a vehicle is to buckle up. A simple click of the seatbelt can prevent your face from hitting the windshield or from being ejected from the vehicle.”

- MORE -

**Page 2 of 2 – Partners Focus On Teen Driving Safety**

Always keep in mind that a seatbelt may be the only thing to save your life during a crash, he said. “When driving with friends, refuse to start the car until everyone is buckled.”

Make sure that the road has your full attention at all times – this includes refraining from using a cell phone to text or make phone calls. “Studies have shown that people who are texting have about the same motor skills as someone who has been drinking and has a blood alcohol level of twice the legal limit,” Bateman said.

Schedule your time in a way that will enable you to drive safely and defensively. “Being in a hurry while behind the wheel can be extremely dangerous. Avoid following other vehicles too closely and leave a 3-second buffer between you and the car in front of you,” he said.

Bateman urges teens to never drive under the influence of drugs or alcohol. “Keeping control of a vehicle can be hard enough without adding the mind altering effects of these substances,” he said. “Remember: Not only is your safety important, but so is everyone else’s safety that you’re sharing the road with.”

**- END -**