

A MESSAGE FROM POLICE CHIEF, BRIAN STURGILL



November 3-9, 2024

Sleep First. Drive Alert.

The National Sleep Foundation's Drowsy Driving Prevention Week® encourages everyone to prioritize sleep and drive when they are alert and refreshed. Our goal is to help people get the sleep they need and reduce the number of drivers who choose to drive while sleep-deprived.

Together, we can help people drive alert and work to prevent thousands of motor vehicle crashes each year.

Warning Signs of Drowsiness and Fatigue

If you:

- · Can't remember the last few miles driven
- · Have wandering or disconnected thoughts
- · Experience difficulty focusing or keeping your eyes open
- · Have trouble keeping your head up
- · Drift from lanes or hit a rumble strip
- · Yawn repeatedly
- · Tailgate or miss traffic signs
- · Find yourself jerking your vehicle back into lane...

Then you may be suffering from drowsiness or fatigue.

Continuing to drive in this condition puts you at serious risk of being involved in a fatigue-related crash. You should pull over in a safe place and get some rest before resuming your trip.



What You Can Do to Stay Alert While Driving:

• **Sleep / Take Naps**: Your best bet is to get enough sleep every day. If you feel drowsy while driving, a 15-minute nap can be very effective. Make sure to pull over in a safe place.





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- Caffeine: Avoid caffeine during the last half of your workday as it may contribute
 to sleeping problems. You can gain short-term alertness by drinking coffee or
 other caffeine sources if driving, but it usually takes 30 minutes to take affect and
 wears off after a few hours.
- **Regular Stops:** You should stop every 100 miles or 2 hours. Switch drivers if you can.
- AC MAX Re-circulation: Do not operate the vehicle for extended periods of time with the AC on MAX or Recirculation. Under these conditions the level of CO2 in vehicles is increased and may contribute to drowsy driving.

If You are Planning a Long Trip, use the following tips for avoiding fatigue:

- Prepare for your trip by getting a good night's sleep the night before. Plan to drive during the time that you are normally awake and stay overnight rather than traveling straight through.
- · Avoid driving during the body's "down time". According to AAA, this is generally in the mid-afternoon and between midnight and 6:00 a.m.
- · If you have passengers, talk to them. It will help to keep you alert and they will also be able to tell if you are showing signs of getting sleepy.
- · Schedule a break every 2 hours or every 100 miles. Take a nap, stretch, take a walk and get some exercise before resuming your trip.
- · Stop sooner if you show any danger signs of sleepiness.

"Tricks" That DO NOT WORK:

· Opening the window, turning on the air conditioning, or playing loud music are not effective in keeping drivers alert for any extended period of time.



DIRECTORY

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