

ThinkFirst Summer Drive

To Prevent Brain, Spinal Cord and other Traumatic Injuries

1986-2016



Help our Drive Raise \$30,000 for 30 Years!

Please! Help Us Reach Our Goal!

DONATE

Just *one more week* of our 10 week drive—
Help us move our little red car to \$30,000! Your donation supports injury prevention program development for use throughout the U.S.

Thank You!

The 2016 Summer Drive will run for 10 weeks, June 20 - August 29.

[Previous Summer Drive Newsletters](#)

This Week's Summer Safety Links

[Texting and Driving Fast Facts](#)

[GDL Laws by State](#)

[Distractions Driving and GDL Brochures](#)

Building a Culture of Safety

Toward Zero Injuries

Week 9, August 14, 2016

Test Your Knowledge:

Q: Is it okay to text while waiting at a stop light?

A: No. While state laws vary, most laws prohibit texting while driving in traffic, which includes anytime you are in a traffic lane. But don't base all you do on texting laws — or the lack of them. Consider the facts. Traffic intersections are the site of roughly 40% of crashes and require the full attention of every driver, bicycle rider and pedestrian. ([from Texting and Driving Fast Facts at thinkfirst.org](#))

Texting and driving puts everyone on the road at risk. Download this and other Fast Facts to distribute through your business, office or school. Help us inform people about the dangers of texting and driving.

A Focus on Traffic Safety

Vehicle crashes continue to be a leading cause of traumatic brain and spinal cord injuries to children, teens and young adults. ThinkFirst's classroom presentations have always had a strong focus on traffic safety. Presenters encourage students to make safe choices in everything traffic-related: as a driver, passenger, pedestrian, bicyclist or motorcyclist. When ThinkFirst programs visit driver education classes it introduces new drivers to other perspectives: the medical perspective, from our health educators, and a personal perspective, from people who have been in a crash. Traffic safety topics include driving safe and sober, distracted driving (including phone use/texting), drowsy driving, speeding and use of seat belts.

For a short clip of our teen presentation video, click [here](#).



Ronald 'Bubba' Fletcher, Shreveport, LA

GDL: Graduated Drivers Licensing

The GDL was developed to gradually allow new drivers more privileges as they develop driving skills. Established by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), the GDL system helps reduce the crash risk of new drivers. The GDL has three stages, starting with the Stage 1, Learner's Permit during where 50 hours of supervised driving time is recommended. During Stage 2, the licence has been obtained and for at least six months the new driver has restrictions on night driving and number of passengers. If both stages are maintained for six months without a traffic violation they move to Stage 3, Unrestricted Full License. Laws vary by state; for GDL laws by state visit the Governors Highway Safety Association website [here](#). For our free GDL brochures with a handy driving log order [here](#). (shipping charges apply).

ThinkFirst Chapters are Ready to Help!

ThinkFirst Chapters are run by injury prevention specialists in medical and rehabilitation hospitals, medical universities, Spinal Cord Injury and Brain Injury Association chapters (SCIA and BIA chapters) or in physician practices. Chapters can also be started as independent nonprofits. Each chapter also has a sponsoring physician and one or more VIP speakers — Voices for Injury Prevention— who have had a brain or spinal cord injury.

The ThinkFirst Foundation provides training, materials and support for chapters to present educational programs in health, science and driver education classes, or as assembly presentations for schools and community

groups. Presentations are free of charge. One hundred and fifty-four US chapters provide more than 6,000 presentations each year. See our [chapter directory](#) to schedule.

Next week will be our last 2016 Summer Drive Newsletter, featuring International Chapters and back-to-school with ThinkFirst For Kids!



Jill Braselton, Northwestern Medicine, Winfield, IL

To donate by mail or phone:

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Preventing brain, spinal cord and other traumatic injuries through education, research and advocacy since 1986.

Classroom and Assembly Presentations • Health Fairs • Community Events

Vehicle Safety • Bicycle Safety • Sports Safety • Concussion • Falls Prevention • Violence Prevention • Water Safety