



Chief Lonnie J. Westphal
Colorado State Patrol
700 Kipling St.
Denver, CO 80215-5865
(303) 239-4500
TDD (303) 239-4505

Let's Be Civil on Our Highways!

To help stop the growing phenomenon of unacceptable aggressive driving behavior that leads to "road rage," the Colorado State Patrol initiated a statewide campaign in October 1997 called "Aggressive Drivers Are a Public Threat" (ADAPT).

The ADAPT enforcement and education campaign has been well received across Colorado. However, many motorists requested a way to report unacceptable aggressive driving behavior to the Colorado State Patrol.

Be a "STAR"- Start Taking an Active Role Against Aggressive Drivers

We are pleased to report that as of July 1, 1998, Colorado's motorists can "Be A STAR" and "Start Taking an Active Role" in reporting unacceptable aggressive driving behavior by using their cell phone to dial *CSP (Star 277). It is a FREE speed dial number provided as a public service by the cellular phone companies supporting the CSP's ADAPT statewide program.

Your *CSP call will connect you with the Colorado State Patrol's Communications Center where you can report directly to our Communication Officers. Our Communications Centers have been equipped with a new, innovative computer system that allows our staff to assist you immediately.

The free *CSP cell phone number also can be used to report other dangerous driving behavior, hazardous road conditions, or stranded motorists.

Please drive as though your life and the lives of others depended upon it, because they do!

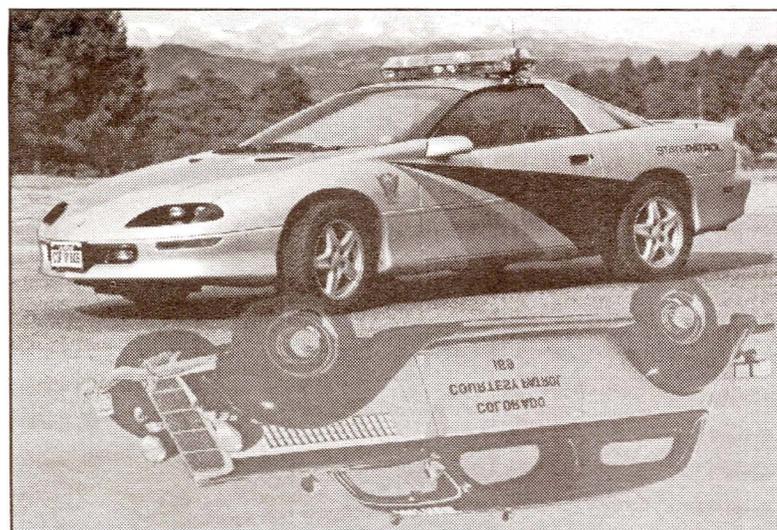
Every day in the United States more than 115 persons are killed in vehicle crashes.

When we get into our vehicle, we are in control. It is our responsibility to make sure that the vehicle is in safe operating condition. It is our responsibility to make sure that we, as drivers, are in safe operating condition both physically and emotionally. It is our responsibility to drive our vehicles according to the laws of the State of Colorado.

It is no accident that in nearly 35,000 crashes investigated by the Colorado State Patrol in 1997, more than 11,000 involved injuries or death and that 11 per cent were caused by drinking and driving. It is no accident that nearly two-thirds of all crashes involve "unacceptable aggressive driving behaviors" such as tailgating, speeding, failing to signal, improper lane changes, passing illegally, or drivers not paying attention to operating their vehicles as if their life and the lives of others depended upon it.



Colonel Lonnie J. Westphal
Chief, Colorado State Patrol



"2 Seconds for Safety"

Let's be civil on our highways and be courteous to other drivers. Let's be mindful of the responsibility that we have to ourselves, family, friends, and other individuals that we meet on our highways when we drive. Take two seconds to buckle your seat belt. Take two seconds to take a couple of deep breaths to focus on being mindful of what you're about to do, that of driving a very powerful vehicle. Once you're on the road, always keep two seconds between you and the vehicle ahead of you.

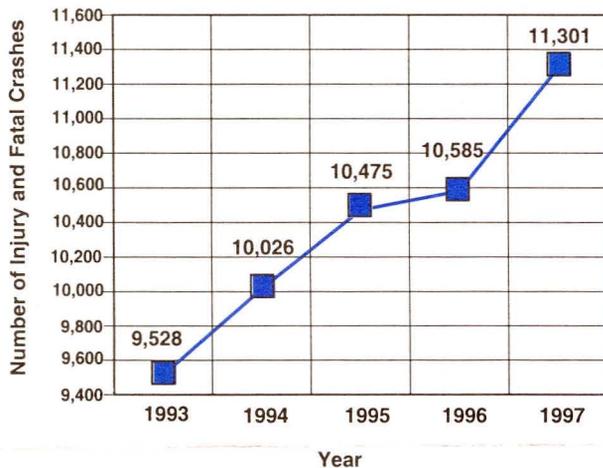
Taking "Two Seconds for Safety" is being responsible, courteous, and civil.

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In 1997, the Colorado State Patrol introduced its new look in its "Back to the Future" patrol car, again emphasizing its focus on enforcement designed to protect Colorado citizens.

Injury and Fatal Crashes

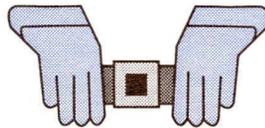
Injury and Fatal Crashes 1993 through 1997



In 1997, 34,622 crashes were investigated by the Colorado State Patrol. Of these, 11,201 involved injuries or death. 11% of these were caused by drinking and driving. There was a 6.7% increase in crashes that resulted in injury or death over the 1996 level.

Seat Belt Use

There were 503 people killed in Colorado in 1997 that were in vehicles where seat belts should have been worn (this excludes motorcycles, bicyclists, and pedestrians).



BUCKLE UP!!

67% (338) were not wearing seat belts.

60% (203) of those killed were ejected

Child Restraints

Colorado law requires that children 4 years old and younger or those weighing 40 pounds or less be restrained in child seats.

From 1993 to 1997, 60 children 4 years old and younger were killed in automobile crashes in Colorado; 45 of these were in vehicles and should have had proper child restraints available.

71.1% (36) of these were not using child restraints

**Arrive Safely - Always Buckle Up
Everyone in Your Vehicle**

Aggressive Driving

Aggressive driving is a factor in most traffic crashes in Colorado. The following crashes were caused by aggressive driving behaviors in 1997:

Violation	Crashes
Lane Violations	2,151
Following Too Close	1,981
Failed to Yield Right of Way	1,733
Improper Passing	508
Wrong Side of Road	386
Disregarding Stop Sign	317
Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol or Drugs	2,227
Total of Non-Speed	9,303
Exceeding Safe Speed	5,947
Exceeding Lawful Speed	1,042

Teen Drivers

One out of every eight people who died was between the ages of 14 and 19; 92% of these crashes were caused by teenage drivers. Out of these, 40 were males and 34 were females.

Age	Number Died
14	4
15	11
16	20
17	15
18	12
19	12
Total	73

The most vulnerable time for teens is between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. 45% of all teen traffic related deaths occurred during these hours.

Fatal Crashes

January through December 1997

In 1997, 612 people died in motor vehicle crashes in Colorado:

236	Single Car Fatalities
57	Pedestrians
39	Motorcyclists*
68	Semi-Truck Involved**
7	Children 4 and Younger

* 59% of motorcyclists who died were not wearing helmets.



** 79% of semi-truck involved crashes were not caused by the semi driver.

Please Be Civil On Our Highways

Remember: "Two Seconds For Safety"

As part of being more civil on our highways, the Colorado State Patrol encourages drivers to use the two-finger "peace" or "victory" salute as a non-threatening way to remind all drivers to follow the "Two Second Rule" - always keep a two second interval between you and the vehicle in front of you.

Simply watch the vehicle ahead of you; when it passes a reference point such as a road marker, count "One-thousand-one, one-thousand-two." If you pass the same spot before you finish counting, you are following too close.

The Colorado State Patrol ADAPT (Aggressive Drivers Are a Public Threat) Safety Salute can be used to signal a "thank you" to another motorist who extends a courtesy to you, or to say "I'm sorry" if you make an unintentional driving error that could be viewed as aggressive.

When confronted by an aggressive driver:

Ignore them. Get out of their way. Avoid eye contact. Ignore discourteous gestures and refuse to return them. Maintain a positive attitude when you drive.

Unacceptable Aggressive Driving Behavior

Tailgating - Cutting People Off - Weaving In and Out of Traffic - Passing on the Right or Shoulder of the Highway - Failure to Allow others to Merge or Pass - Obscene Hand Gestures - Honking, Yelling or Flashing Lights - Exceeding the Posted Speed Limits - Bumping or Ramming Another Car - Brandishing Weapons.



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Colorado State Patrol 1997 Annual Report



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Governor Roy Romer

Colorado Department of Public Safety
Patrick Ahlstrom, Director

Colorado State Patrol
Colonel Lonnie J. Westphal, Chief

Headquarters:
700 Kipling Street
Denver, CO 80215-5865
(303) 239-4500 TDD (303) 239-4505

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