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POLICE MEDIA ADVISORY

Date: October 15, 2026
To: San Diego Media
From: Chula Vista Police Department
Contact: Sergeant Manuel Salazar, Public Information Officer
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Email: pio@chulavistapdca.gov
Subject: National Teen Driver Safety Week is October 18-24
Teen Driver Safety Depends on Parent and Guardian Action

Message: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Safe driving starts long before anyone gets behind the wheel. This National Teen Driver Safety Week, the Chula Vista Police Department encourages parents and guardians to discuss safe driving habits with their teens 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, 2,320 people were killed in crashes involving teen drivers in 2024. That same year, 496 people were killed in crashes on California Roads involving drivers aged 20 or younger.

Teens should understand the dangers of risky driving behaviors, like speeding, texting while driving, not wearing a seat belt and driving under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs.

“Meaningful conversations at home can help shape the choices teens make on the road,” Chula Vista Police Department Officer Oscar Miranda said. “Parents and guardians who talk about distractions, speeding and impairment give teens the tools to navigate real-world risks and steer them toward safer habits every time they drive.”

Teens are also encouraged to use free, mobile-friendly resources from the California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), including the free, mobile-friendly California Quick Reference Driver's Handbook, educational videos, and the Teen Driver Roadmap, a step-by-step video guide for teens and their parents to help them prepare to get behind the wheel safely.

The Office of Traffic Safety offers the following tips to support teen drivers:

- Learn about California's provisional licensing law and Graduated Driver Licensing laws, which places restrictions on passengers and nighttime driving during the first year a teen has a license.
- Lead by example: Every time you're behind the wheel, it is a chance to model safe driving habits and talk about it with your teen.
- Establish safe driving behaviors that are not only expected, but also the law. This includes no phone use while driving, eliminating distractions from friends, always following the posted speed limit and always buckling up.
- Friends, family members, parents and guardians can create a teen driving contract to outline specific driving guidelines.
- Speak up for safety: Encourage your teen to say something as a passenger if the driver is speeding, distracted, not wearing their seat belt or otherwise driving unsafely.

Teens, parents, educators, mentors and California drivers can also practice safe driving behaviors in realistic situations on the new, free, web-based driving simulation, The Road Ahead. Additionally, there is a user guide that provides an overview for how to get started and how to facilitate discussions about the game experience.

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