



# The Road Safety Wales Low Down

## In This Issue:

- [Winter Driving Tips](#)
- [Mobile Phone Penalties](#)
- [#OpSnap](#)
- [Online Course for Managers](#)
- [Online Portal for Resources](#)
- [Child Car Seat Recall](#)
- [Virtual Reality Road Safety](#)
- [Booster Cushions](#)
- [When Winter Bites](#)
- [RoSPA Centenary](#)
- [Stop Means Stop](#)
- [Top of the Lollipops](#)
- [GoSafe 20mph Results](#)
- [New Vehicle Tax Rates](#)
- [Project Edward Results](#)

See Road Safety Wales on:  
[Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)

Compiled by:  
Ann Horton, Rospa  
02920 250 600  
[ahorton@rospa.com](mailto:ahorton@rospa.com)

Road Safety Wales is not responsible for the content of external internet sites.

## Winter Driving Tips



Driving in the winter is very different than in other times of the year. Sometimes conditions can be extreme, as we have found out over recent winters, with prolonged periods of heavy snow and floods.

Different weather conditions create different hazards throughout the Winter and in different areas of the country at different times. A single journey

may take us into very different weather, road and traffic conditions, so we need to be prepared for each one.

[These comprehensive tips on winter driving](#) may help you cope better with the various seasonal weather hazards.

Take a few moments to read through the information, as you never know when you might need them.

## Mobile Phone Penalties to Double on 1 March 2017

The Government has confirmed it is planning to double the penalties for those caught using a mobile phone while driving. The change will come into effect on 1 March 2017, and would mean an immediate ban for newly-qualified drivers who have a ceiling of six points for the first two years after passing the test.

Novice drivers (those who passed their test in the last 2 years) have their licence revoked by DVLA once they reach 6 points (rather than the usual 12 points) under the New Drivers Act. To regain their licence they must reapply for a provisional licence and pass a further theory and practical driving test. The new proposals mean novice drivers will face revocation of their licence upon their first mobile phone use offence.

The evidence shows that young drivers are the most likely group to be observed using a mobile phone while driving. The majority of novice drivers are young people, below the age of 25, and, although it is recognised that this group will be disproportionately impacted, they are also more likely to offend in the first place



## Drivers to be Prosecuted using Dash Cam Evidence



Operation Snap was launched in October 2016, in response to the ever increasing submissions of video and photographic evidence from people who have witnessed driving offences on the roads of North Wales.

Following the launch, numerous film clips and photographs have already been received from members of the public. 58 offences have so far been processed – ranging from driving without due care and attention, failing to comply with a red traffic signal and failing to comply with solid white line.

Chief Inspector Darren Wareing from North Wales Police' Roads Policing Unit said: "If you have footage from a dash cam, your pedal cycle cam or any other source that you feel supports you as a witness to an alleged motoring offence, we want to hear from you. More information on OpSnap can be found [here](#).

## Road Safety at Work: Online Course for Managers

A [new on-line course](#) developed by the EASST Academy in partnership with Cranfield University and IRU Academy is now available for anyone with the responsibility for training, supervising and monitoring occupational drivers.

The course will give you the skills to deliver and sustain a robust road safety management strategy, because a safe fleet is in everyone's interest.

Businesses that adopt a thorough approach to driver safety can benefit from reduced insurance, less damage to vehicles and goods, better staff retention and a significant reduction in working time lost through accidents.

This course is delivered online through 10 video lectures led by industry. Real examples are used throughout with accompanying material to read as you go. Rather than dry academic learning - this course is blended with case studies, animation videos and quizzes.

## New Online Portal Maps Resources for Older Drivers



A new online portal of motoring research relating to older and disabled consumers has been launched.

[The Motoring Research Portal](#), created by the Research Institute for Consumer Affairs (Rica), includes more than 80 items of research from industry, academia and third sector organisations. The portal uses bookmarks to show information on topics including technical research, for example on secondary vehicle technology (which covers everything from the ignition, lights and indicators to heating, air conditioning and in-car entertainment) and the role of autonomous cars.

Information in the new portal also covers older drivers and behaviour change, accessibility and usability of cars and other transport and vehicles (including wheelchair accessible vehicles), and adaptations for older and disabled motorists.

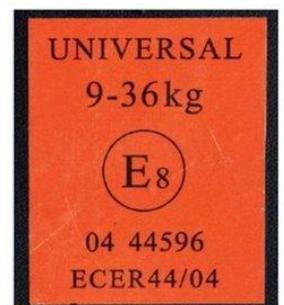
[Rica is a UK consumer research charity](#), specialising in research with older and disabled consumers. Based in London, the charity also provides advice on issues such as mobility and using public transport.

Rica is encouraging road safety officers to input any useful online resources to the portal by visiting the 'add bookmark' page. Rica will check the resource and then publish if deemed suitable for inclusion.

## Mamas & Papas Child Car Seat Recall

Mamas & Papas have recalled certain car seats amid fears they could crack in an accident. However, Mamas & Papas said there have been no incidents of children being hurt as a result of using the car seats at the centre of the recall.

**The seats affected are Mamas & Papas Nembus, Mamas & Papas Aureus, Mamas & Papas Group 123, and the Mamas & Papas Altair.** Sold through Asda, Tesco, Shop Direct, independent retailers and the brand's own website and factory stores.



The approval number is 04  
44596 as shown here

## Virtual Reality Road Safety



South Wales Fire and Rescue Service (SWFRS) has reported that since 2015 it has attended over 1,890 road traffic collisions (RTCs) where there have been 39 fatalities and 867 rescues with injuries.

The Service will be embracing virtual reality (VR) technology to raise awareness of the dangers on our roads and the *Fatal 5*, with a focus on using a mobile phone while driving. The 360° VR video gives drivers the *most realistic experience* of a road traffic collision from the front seat passenger's perspective, with users experiencing a full crash scene extrication. The technology incorporates 360° filming and is designed to show drivers the dangers of the roads and what can happen if things go wrong, especially when being distracted and using a mobile phone while driving.

Shaun Moody, Head of Road Safety at South Wales Fire and Rescue Service said, "We need to do all we can to reduce the number of people killed and seriously injured on our roads by engaging, informing and reminding them of the consequences of using a mobile phone while driving, as well as raising awareness about inappropriate speed, driving under the influence and not wearing a seatbelt.

"Careless driving not only has the potential to cause life changing circumstances for the driver or their passengers, but also passersby and other road users. By using new technology like the VR headsets we are ensuring the Service is keeping up with how our communities, especially younger drivers, are engaging and consuming safety messages."

## Booster Cushion Regulation Change



Many parents may be confused by the news that booster cushion regulations may change soon - possibly this March.

Susan Storch, Chair of Road Safety Wales, explained: "Any changes will only apply to new backless booster seats (booster cushions) entering the market, not ones which are already in use and meet existing safety standards."

"Parents, carers and professionals working with children, who currently use a booster cushion that complies with the existing regulations will not be breaking the law if they continue to use them after the rule change. You will not be required to buy a replacement booster seat to meet this change."

Road Safety Wales welcomes the forthcoming new regulations, as backless child restraints offer far less protection in the event of a collision. [www.childcarseats.org.uk](http://www.childcarseats.org.uk) provides full details and advice on choosing and fitting an appropriate child car seat

## When Winter Bites . .

At this time of year, a single journey may take us into very different weather and different road and traffic conditions, so drivers need to be prepared.

Working in partnership with Highways England, Road Safety Wales has produced a series of posters to remind drivers to be prepared, to plan around the weather, and to check forecasts for the latest information.

The bilingual posters will be disseminated by Road Safety Wales via social media. Follow @roadsafetywales for further information.



## Parents Need More Help to Keep Kids Safe from Accidents – RoSPA Centenary Survey



Most parents in Wales are unaware that accidents cause the most deaths of children and young people aged 0-19, according to research conducted for the 100th anniversary of UK safety charity the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents.

Just over a third of parents (34 per cent) across the country correctly identified that accidents are the top killer in this age group in the UK, with more than half (58 per cent) thinking other causes of death, including cancer or intentional self-harm/suicide, were most prevalent or saying they didn't know what caused the most deaths.

The RoSPA-commissioned YouGov survey of 1,007 parents of children aged 18 and under across Great Britain also found that 39 per cent of parents in Wales have never received or sought advice or information about keeping their child(ren) safe from accidents. But 57 per cent agreed that there should be more information and advice for parents about keeping children safe from accidents and 59 per cent agreed that it should be easier to find.

For more information [click here](#).

## Stop Means Stop – Drivers Putting Lives at Risk

Children and School Crossing Patrol Staff are being put at risk of death or injury by drivers who fail to stop when the Stop sign is displayed. Drivers are legally obliged to obey the School Crossing Patrol Sign under the Road Traffic Act 1988. As soon as a patrol raises their sign, even if they have not stepped into the road, the law states that drivers must be prepared to stop.

Once the School Crossing Patrol is in the road displaying the sign, drivers MUST stop, and not proceed until the School Crossing Patrol and any accompanying children have finished crossing the road.

Anyone reported for not stopping is likely to be prosecuted, and could face a fine of up to £1,000 and three penalty points on their driving licence. They may also have the injury or death of a child or School Crossing Patrol on their conscience.

School Crossing Patrol staff do a marvellous job in all weather conditions and sometimes the verbal abuse and intimidation they suffer, simply for doing their job, is difficult to understand. Any such incident will be reported to the Police.

Thankfully, the majority of drivers are courteous and stop when requested to, but it is vital that each and every driver complies with the law to ensure we keep our children, and our excellent and dedicated School Crossing Patrols, safe across Wales.



## Top of the Lollipops



At the recent Vale of Glamorgan Road Safety Awards those working on school crossing patrols throughout the county were recognised and rewarded for their contribution to road safety. The co-ordinators and volunteers of the Kerbcraft Child Pedestrian Training Scheme were also thanked during this year's presentation.

School Crossing Patrol of the Year was awarded to Sandra Riggott, an extremely popular, and well-known, member of the Colcot Primary School community. A worthy winner of the title, Sandra, in addition to carrying out her regular duties, often visits the school to speak to the children about road safety, and about her job as a school crossing patrol

officer.

Vale of Glamorgan Council Cabinet Member for Building Services, Highways & Transportation, Councillor Peter King, thanked everyone for attending the presentation. He said: "The School Crossing Patrol Service and Kerbcraft Schemes were established in recognition of the need to keep children safe whilst out and about, on and near our busy roads. "The success of any scheme relies upon the commitment and dedication of the individuals involved. Standing in the pouring rain and watching drivers, whilst teaching a child road safety and providing a safe crossing location, takes a very dedicated and enthusiastic individual." Read the full story [here](#).

## GoSafe "20mph Rule Outside Schools" Campaign Results

GoSafe are committed to the reduction of casualties on Welsh roads, and conduct regular campaigns in 20mph zones in order to influence the behaviour of motorists. This involves enforcing the speed limits at the start and end of the school day.

Inspector Lee Ford was the officer in charge of the campaign. He said; "At GoSafe we have been generally pleased with the widespread support we have seen for this campaign. We have visited a large number of schools, and at some schools we have been present and recorded no offences, which is obviously pleasing.

"However, there have been some vehicles travelling at speeds far in excess of the speed limit. The highest speed recorded was 46mph which is well over double the posted limit and is not acceptable. There have also been a number of seatbelt offences and a number of drivers recorded using mobile phones. "In total we have recorded 977 speeding offences during the week-long campaign. The message we want people to understand is that speeding and other motoring offences will not be tolerated on Welsh roads."



## New Vehicle Tax Rates

The way vehicle tax is calculated will change for cars and some motor homes that are first registered with DVLA from 1 April 2017. You're not affected if your vehicle was registered before 1 April 2017 - check [your vehicle tax rate](#) to find out how much you'll need to pay.



The amount you pay the first time you tax your vehicle is based on CO2 emissions. Check the [vehicle tax rate tables](#) to find out how much you need to pay.

The amount you pay the second time you tax the vehicle depends on the type of vehicle. You'll pay:

- £140 a year for normal petrol or diesel vehicles
- £130 a year for alternative fuel vehicles (hybrids, bi-ethanol and LPG)
- £0 a year for vehicles with zero CO2 emissions

### New vehicles that cost more than £40,000

If you buy a vehicle with a list price (the published price before any discounts) of more than £40,000, you'll pay a [rate based on CO2 emissions](#) the first time it's taxed. When you tax it for the second time you'll pay one of the new rates (depending on the vehicle) and an additional rate of £310 a year for the next 5 years. After 5 years, your vehicle will then be taxed at one of the new rates again. Check the list price with your dealer so you know how much vehicle tax you'll have to pay.

### Know your vehicle tax rate

You can check [the tax rates for all vehicles](#) if you're thinking about buying a new or used vehicle. You can also apply for [discount on your vehicle tax if you claim certain benefits](#).

## Project Edward Results Published by TISPOL

On Wednesday 21 September 2016 (Project EDWARD day) there were 43 road deaths across 31 countries. This compares with 70 fatalities on the same day in 2015 and represents a like-for-like reduction of almost 39 per cent.

19 countries recorded zero fatalities on 21 September, compared with 11 countries in 2015. Eight of these countries had recorded at least one fatality on 21 September 2015.

Seven other countries recorded a reduction in fatalities, compared with the same day in 2015. Three countries recorded an increase in fatalities. A full country-by-country result sheet is available [here](#)

Twitter impact:

- 19,298,225 unique reach for #ProjectEDWARD
  - Project EDWARD featured in Twitter Moments Today
  - Trending in top 5 in UK
  - At one point trending in top 50 globally
- Project EDWARD day will be held again in 2017 on 21 September

