



I. DATE OF PRESS RELEASE: June 30, 2011

II. ANNOUNCEMENT: Mature Driver Safety month

III. FACTUAL INFORMATION:

The Livermore Police Department will be focusing on educational efforts for mature drivers in the month of July as part of an on-going traffic safety program. Mature drivers are drivers over the age of 65 years.

Nationwide, mature drivers represent approximately 13 percent of the driving public. This number is expected to increase and it is anticipated that by the year 2030, mature drivers will represent approximately 25 percent of the driving public. In 2007, nearly 200,000 mature drivers were injured in traffic collisions nationwide. It should also be noted that 79 percent of fatal traffic collisions involving mature drivers occurred during the day time.

In the interest of public safety, the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) requires all drivers at the age of 70 and older to physically go to their local DMV office when it's time to renew their driver's license. They are required to take both a written and eye test.

California DMV also has a re-examination process for persons who are diagnosed with recent physical or mental condition, or a poor driving record. Re-examinations are generated from many sources including, Physicians, Emergency Technicians, Family Members, Peace Officers, and the Driver License Renewal Application.

The primary restriction for senior drivers is vision related and usually requires the driver to wear glasses or corrective contact lenses. Other common restrictions include, but are not limited to: Restricted freeway driving, driving a vehicle with an additional right side mirror and driving from sunrise to sunset.

The Livermore Police Department will be providing an educational opportunity for Mature drivers at some of the senior centers within the city during the month of July. The program is referred to as CarFit. This program provides older adults the opportunity to check how well their personal vehicles "fit" them.

The CarFit program also provides information and materials on community-specific resources that could enhance their safety as drivers, and/or increase their mobility in the community.

Older drivers are often the safest drivers in that they are more likely to wear their seatbelts, and less likely to speed or drink and drive. However, older drivers are more likely to be killed or seriously injured when a crash does occur due to the greater fragility of our bodies as we age.

Driver safety programs improve adult driver safety by addressing cognitive abilities and skills. However, drivers can also improve their safety by ensuring their cars are properly adjusted for them. A proper fit in one's car can greatly increase not only the driver's safety but also the safety of others.

At a CarFit event, a team of trained technicians work with each participant to ensure they "fit" their vehicle properly for maximum comfort and safety. A CarFit check takes approximately 20 minutes to complete.

The Livermore Police Department would like to remind all drivers to drive safely and to drive within their limits.

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