



ONTRACK

TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS NEWSLETTER | ISSUE #14 DECEMBER 2017



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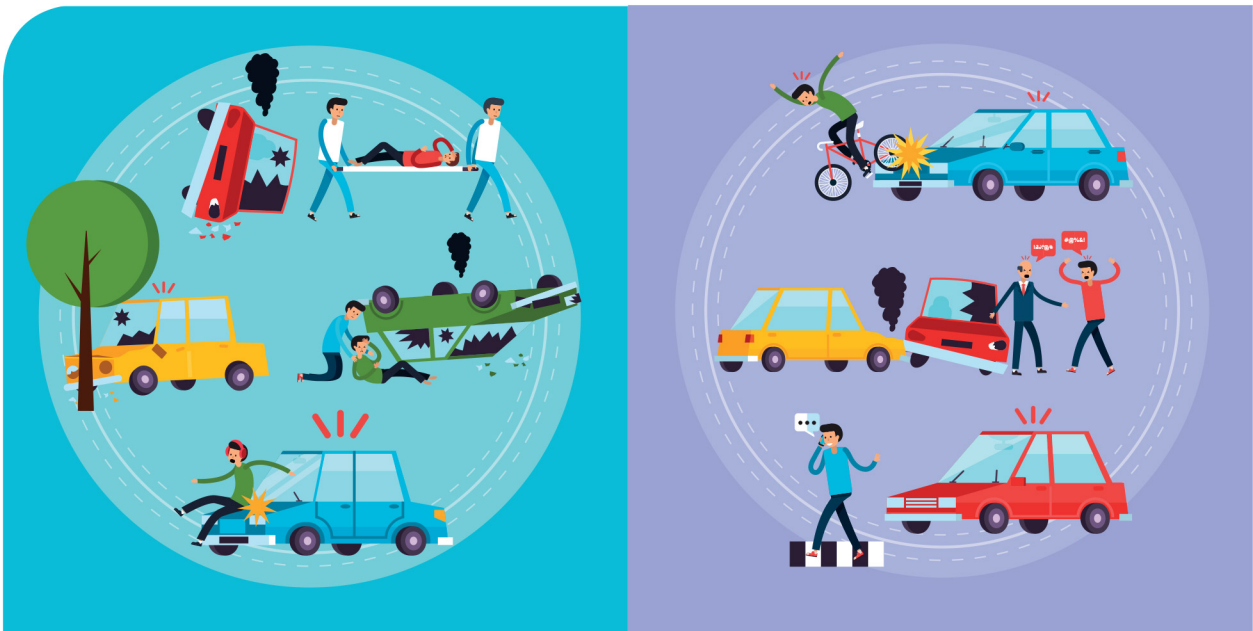
EDITOR'S NOTE

The Department of Transport and Public Works is doing everything in its power to create safer, booze-free roads during the festive season and beyond. However, we cannot do it alone. We expect all road users to play their part by practising good road safety habits.

Remember the basics. This includes not drinking and driving, buckling up all vehicle occupants on every trip, not speeding, not using a cellphone while driving, and not driving when tired.

Dangerous driving behaviour, such as tailgating and unsafe overtaking, is a quick way to becoming a road crash fatality.

All of us carry a responsibility for road safety, and good driving and pedestrian habits are essential. We can help to prevent the unnecessary loss of lives on our roads if we all work together and show consideration and respect for our fellow road users.



Road users across the spectrum see a lack of respect and courtesy among certain drivers. Taxi drivers are most often mentioned in this regard, but other drivers as well as pedestrians are often just as guilty of reckless behaviour. We encourage members of the public to call our Emergency Traffic Control Centre on 021 812 4581 to report bad driving. This will help our traffic authorities to attend to complaints. Alternatively, report incidents on our Safety Home Reporter at: <http://www.safelyhome.westerncape.gov.za/reporter>

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Please send us your feedback and suggestions.

IF YOU ARE TIRED ON THE ROAD, STOP AND REST

Many thousands of motorists will be travelling on Western Cape roads during the festive season. To drive for too long is to potentially risk your life and the lives of others. There is no rule about how often you should rest on a long journey, but it is not worth risking your life for any reason.

USEFUL TIPS

- On long trips, take a 10-minute break outside the vehicle every two hours.
- Plan your route in advance to include stops at particular places along the way. That way, you will have regular breaks from driving.
- Before you start any trip, get enough sleep so that you are well rested. At least six hours of sleep the night before a long trip is recommended.
- Wear good quality sunglasses, avoid heavy foods and, most importantly, don't consume any alcohol before or during your trip.
- If possible, have another person drive with you so you will have someone to talk to and someone to share the driving with.
- Avoid driving at the time your body is usually at rest.

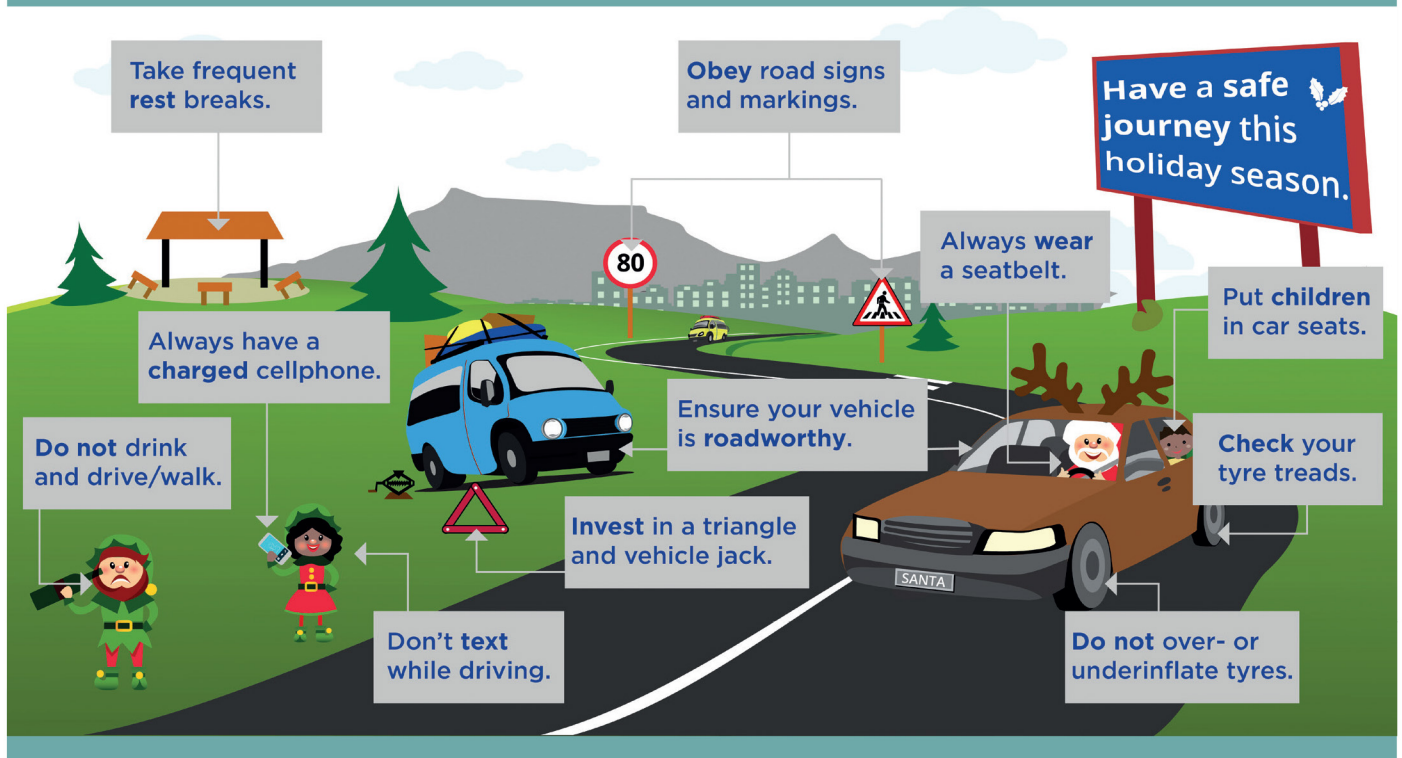
AFRIKAANS SUMMARY

Daar is geen reël wat stipuleer hoe vêr u in 'n gegewe tyd mag bestuur nie, maar ons beveel aan dat u elke twee ure 'n ruskans van tien minute buite u voertuig neem.

ISIXHOSA SUMMARY

Awukho umthetho othi ufanele ukuba ube sele uhambe umgama ongakanani na ngexesha elithile kodwa oko akusosizathu sokuba uzise engozini uyibona.

ROAD SAFETY TIPS THIS FESTIVE SEASON





RANDOM BREATH TESTS ARE BEING PILOTED ON OUR ROADS

Launched in July 2017, RBT is a joint project of the national, provincial and local governments; in partnership with the South African Police Service (SAPS), Provincial Traffic Services, the Road Traffic Management Corporation (RTMC), Safely Home, the City of Cape Town, and the traffic services of the Cape Agulhas, Overstrand, and Theewaterskloof municipalities.

HOW IT WORKS

- Breath testing teams in distinctive RBT uniforms operate lightweight vehicle check points at any time of the day or night at randomly chosen locations.
- Handheld breathalyser devices are used to screen the breath of motorists for the presence of alcohol at these points.
- RBT operations take place in addition to normal traffic law enforcement activities.

RBT is about helping to create a safer and more prosperous Western Cape. Individuals who drive when intoxicated are responsible for hundreds of deaths and thousands of injuries on our roads every year. This has devastating effects on families, particularly when innocent children and breadwinners are killed. Enormous damage is inflicted on our economy by drivers under the influence. The cost of drinking and driving is counted not only in dead bodies and wheelchairs, but also in jobs lost, roads closed, hours spent sitting in traffic and police officers and courts tied up with crashes.

RBT is aimed at mitigating the risk of drivers who have been drinking getting behind the wheel in the first place.

CREATING SAFER, BOOZE-FREE ROADS



CREATING BOOZE-FREE ROADS IN THE OVERBERG

The pilot District Safety Plan (DSP) has been in operation in Cape Agulhas, Overstrand and Theewaterskloof for 12 months. In line with United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, the National Development Plan and the Western Cape Government Provincial Strategic Plan, the aim of the DSP programme is to reduce fatalities by 50% by 2020.

Compared to the previous 12-month period, road traffic fatalities decreased by 29,7%. In the priority category of pedestrians, fatalities decreased by 51,6%. In the priority category of children aged 0-14, fatalities decreased by 84,6%.

Provincial Traffic Services arrested four drivers for allegedly driving under the influence of alcohol since the launch of random breath testing in the Overberg District. The highest breath alcohol reading recorded was 0,75 mg of alcohol/1 000 ml of breath, more than three times the legal limit.

We appreciate our collaboration with the various municipal traffic law enforcement units. We also thank motorists and visitors to the Overberg for helping us to create booze-free roads.

COMMITTED TO SAFER VEHICLES AND SAFER JOURNEYS



Starting from 15 December, traffic law enforcement officers will be conducting vehicle fitness checks between 18:00 and 02:00 at Sonstraal near the Huguenot Tunnel and at the Joostenberg Vlakte weighbridge. These roadside checks mainly target long-distance buses and minibus taxis.

This forms part of the Department's public transport compliance and fatigue management sticker project, which runs at least twice a year (during Easter and the December-January holiday season). Drivers of vehicles that have been tested and found to be in good order will be given a sticker to display on their windscreens to verify their vehicle's fitness at the time the check was performed. This will facilitate the work of traffic officers doing routine vehicle checks en route.

We are hoping these vehicle checks will help ensure that road users and commuters travel safely to their destinations during the busy period in December and January.

STRENGTHENING PROVINCIAL TRAFFIC LAW ENFORCEMENT

The Department of Transport and Public Works is confident that the recent appointment of two regional managers in the Directorate: Traffic Law Enforcement will make a significant contribution to improving road safety in the Western Cape. Control Provincial Inspectors Vigié Chetty and Nathan Arendse are joining Pat Curran, the Deputy Director of Traffic Law Enforcement, to strengthen the management structure of Provincial Traffic Services.

The experience, energy and enthusiasm that Chetty and Arendse bring will help facilitate the professional traffic service that the people of the province deserve. They will be responsible for managing the traffic chiefs at various traffic centres, weighbridge facilities, and impoundment facilities across the province, as well as implementing regional integrated traffic law enforcement plans with stakeholders.

Both Chetty and Arendse were trained at the Western Cape's highly regarded Gene Louw Traffic College. Chetty has been instrumental in training young people at the college over the years, and has helped bring the college's e-learning initiative to fruition.



Control Provincial Inspectors Nathan Arendse and Vigié Chetty flank Director Farrel Payne.

Meanwhile, the well-travelled Arendse has been in various traffic management positions at municipal traffic services in the province. He brings important knowledge and an ability to facilitate integrated partnerships.

AVID ROAD SAFETY PRACTITIONER DAVID FROST SAYS GOODBYE



David Frost

David Frost, who is a Deputy Director in the Department's road safety management unit, is retiring this month after 42 years of public sector service. We thank David for his contributions to road safety over the years and wish him well with his future plans.

"What is now left is to take my leave and wish you well and thank those who have added to my good experiences and contributed to my successes," said Frost. "I would also like to express my gratitude for having been able to add value, and to reflect on the occasions where I might not have met expectations. It was a pleasure to have known and interacted with you."

BUCKLE UP



IT TAKES A SECOND TO SAVE A LIFE.

<http://safelyhome.westerncape.gov.za>

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER

@WCGovTPW and engage us using #BoozeFreeRoads

VISION

To lead in the delivery of government infrastructure and related services.

MISSION

The Department of Transport and Public Works delivers infrastructure and services to promote socio-economic outcomes and safe, empowered and connected communities.

EDITORIAL TEAM

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ROAD SAFETY IS A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

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Please send us your feedback and suggestions.

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

City of Cape Town helpline - 021 480 7700
Western Cape Traffic Management Centre - 021 812 4581 or 112 from a cellphone
Police - 10111



Western Cape
Government

BETTER TOGETHER.

We want the public to assist us to create safer roads. This starts with all drivers ensuring their own safety behind the wheel. The fewer incidents on our roads, the more quickly our response agencies can attend to emergencies. We can't ensure road safety alone. All of us have a role to play. Working towards providing safer roads for all **BETTER TOGETHER.**