

# Watch Your Speed: Operation Safe Driver Week Set for July 12 – 18

Stay-at-home orders during the COVID-19 pandemic led to a welcome sight for professional drivers: less crowded roadways. However, it also led to a dangerous trend—more drivers speeding and practicing other unsafe behaviors.

According to the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA):

- The average speed on interstate highways, state highways and expressways in five large U.S. cities **increased by as much as 75%**
- Violations for driving 21 – 25 mph above the speed limit **rose by nearly 40%** in Washington, D.C.
- The number of speed camera tickets issued in New York City in March **increased by more than 60%**
- Tucson police reported a **40% rise** in one-vehicle wrecks, which often happen when a driver going too fast loses control
- Police clocked highway speeds above **100 mph** in four states

Speeding and other dangerous behaviors bring deadly consequences. In Virginia, the number of fatalities involving both speed and unrestrained drivers **increased by 78%** from March – May 2020 compared to the same time in 2019.

**The time to slow down and stay distraction-free is now.** From July 12 – 18, the CVSA will host its 2020 Operation Safe Driver Week. “It’s essential that this enforcement initiative, which focuses on identifying and deterring unsafe driving behaviors such as speeding, goes on as scheduled,” says CVSA president Sgt. John Samis with the Delaware State Police.



During Operation Safe Driver Week, law enforcement personnel throughout North America will be on the lookout for unsafe driving behaviors, including:

- Speeding
- Distracted driving
- Failure to use a seatbelt
- Following too closely
- Failure to obey traffic control devices
- Evidence of drunk or drugged driving

Law enforcement personnel will issue citations and warnings to any and all drivers caught exhibiting dangerous driving behaviors. Last year, officers issued nearly 47,000 citations and more than 87,000 warnings to passenger and commercial motor vehicle drivers during Operation Safe Driver Week.

Use your seatbelt. Don’t tailgate. Obey all street signs and warning lights. Drive sober. Get enough sleep. And above all, watch your speed. Doing so will not only keep you from getting a citation—it may save your life.