



Canadian Road Safety News Digest

A monthly compilation of national, provincial and local news stories on road safety

For the Period April 1-30, 2024

US traffic deaths fell 3.6% in 2023, the 2nd straight yearly drop. But nearly 41,000 people died

April 1 2024, CityNews Toronto

DETROIT (AP) – U.S. traffic deaths fell 3.6% last year, but still, almost 41,000 people were killed on the nation’s roadways, according to full-year estimates by safety regulators.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said it was the second year in a row that fatalities decreased. The agency also released final numbers for 2022 on Monday, saying that 42,514 people died in crashes.

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Should Distracted Driving Laws Apply to Your Dog? Erie Insurance Survey Shows Americans Equally Divided on the Issue

April 1 2024, Stockhouse

Laws restricting cell phone usage to prevent distracted driving are becoming more commonplace. But what about legislation designed to address another common distraction in your car—your cute fluffy dog? That was the focus of a recent survey commissioned by Erie Insurance and conducted online by The Harris Poll, which documented that a vast majority of dog owners with a driver’s license (92%) take their dogs in the car with them.

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Impaired-driving crashes jump 31% in 5 years on OPP-patrolled roads

April 2 2024, Bradford Today

'Tragically, 385 people lost their lives in impaired driving-related collisions ... between 2018 and the end of 2023,' department says, noting enforcement set to increase.

The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) will enhance its impaired driving enforcement efforts after noting a 31 per cent increase in impaired driving-related collisions in 2023.

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Understanding The Crisis: Why Pedestrian Traffic Deaths and Injuries Persist In Toronto

April 3 2024, Mondaq

This February has been the most dangerous month on Toronto streets for pedestrians and cyclists since 2020. Within the span of just one month, 12 collisions involving pedestrians and cyclists, resulting in four tragic fatalities, illustrated the urgent need for enhanced road safety measures. These alarming figures cast a shadow over the ambitious goals set forth by the Vision Zero initiative, launched in 2016, and Vision Zero 2.0, launched in 2019, to eradicate road fatalities.

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Union demands stricter safety measures for Quebec road signage industry

April 3 2024, Global News

With the summer work blitz set to begin in Montreal, the United Steelworkers Union is calling for changes to the road signage industry. Union officials are calling on the Quebec government to “step up” in what they describe as a major cleanup of the industry.

The lack of regulation on construction sites is cause for concern and puts the lives of road signal workers at risk, according to union spokesperson Martin L’Abbée.

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Distracted Driving Fell 4.5% in 2023, Preventing an Estimated 55,000 Crashes and 250 Fatalities

April 4 2024, Collision Repair Magazine

While a 4.5% reduction in distracted driving over the last year is an improvement, distracted driving is still dangerously high in the United States. For perspective, US drivers are 187% more distracted than UK drivers. In 2023, US drivers spent 2 minutes and 6 seconds interacting with their phones each hour they drove. While this marks a six-second decrease from 2022, this figure is still 17% higher than it was in 2020.

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Tesla to unveil robotaxi self-driving car in August, Elon Musk says

April 5 2024, Yahoo News Canada

Elon Musk announced that Tesla will unveil its robotaxi this summer. The entrepreneur has previously discussed efforts to create Tesla cars without human controls and for existing vehicles to gradually improve its Full Self-Driving Capability, which are not fully autonomous.

The technological feat has been a longtime goal for Musk, who has said autonomous taxis could revolutionize modern transportation by becoming more popular than human-driven cars and that automaker would be "worth basically zero."

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New rules set distance B.C. drivers must keep away from cyclists

April 7 2024, Times Colonist

New B.C. rules mandate a distance of at least a metre when motorists pass cyclists on lower-speed roads; 1.5 metres on roads with speed limits above 50 km/h.

There's a new minimum distance that B.C. drivers must maintain when passing cyclists on roads.

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Tesla settles lawsuit on eve of trial in deadly automated-driving crash

April 9 2024, CBC News

Tesla has settled a lawsuit over a 2018 car crash that killed an Apple engineer after his Model X, operating on Autopilot, swerved off a highway near San Francisco, court documents showed on Monday.

The settlement was made on the eve of the trial over the high-profile accident involving Tesla's driver-assistant technology. Tesla faces a series of lawsuits over crashes related to the alleged use of Autopilot, putting the automaker at risk of large monetary judgments and reputational damage.

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Cycling and safer roads: Improving public health through urban planning

April 10 2024, Healthy Debate

More than 50 per cent of road fatalities are vulnerable road users, including pedestrians, cyclists and motorcyclists, who are disproportionately from lower incomes; more than 50 per cent of our urban landscape lacks the basic infrastructure to support all forms of transport. Health-care professionals and their institutions have the knowledge and moral authority to help reveal and curtail the inequities and harms (climate change, sedentary lifestyle, collisions, financial costs, etc.) behind this urban landscape.

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Toronto Police Service Second Annual Youth Driving Program, in Co-operation with The Children's Breakfast Clubs

April 10 2024, Toronto Police Service

Toronto Police Service is pleased to announce the second instalment of the Youth Driving Program. With co-operation from The Children's Breakfast Clubs (TCBC), this program is designed to assist young persons in obtaining their G1, and ultimately a G2 driver's license.

This program will provide ten Westview Centennial Secondary School students with the skills needed to become safe drivers.

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Sharing the Road: New Study on Intersection Safety

April 11 2024, Canada Newswire

When it comes to road safety, small changes can make a big difference: that's the conclusion of a research project led by Piétons Québec. The team's project assessed the effects of various measures to make crossings safer for pedestrians.

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Bad driving or poor design? A downtown Edmonton intersection is a case study

April 11 2024, CBC News

In 2020, many Edmontonians drove less as they began working from home and avoiding social gatherings. Fewer cars on the road led to far fewer collisions, injuries and fatalities, including for pedestrians and cyclists.

As vehicular traffic returned, those numbers shot back up -- to higher levels than before, in some cases.

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Travelers Risk Index Shows Rise in Distracted Driving

April 11 2024, Stockhouse

The Travelers Companies, Inc. (NYSE: TRV) today announced the results of the 2024 Travelers Risk Index on distracted driving, highlighting an increase in dangerous behaviors.

The results show that many of the common distractions that had been consistently declining have rebounded in recent years, with some even surpassing pre-pandemic figures. Crashes and near misses due to distracted driving have also increased.

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Are vehicle headlights too bright? Debate revs up as U.K. plans study

April 13 2024, Global News

The U.K. announced in late March that it will commission an independent study into glare from bright car headlights, but it is unclear whether Canada could – or should – do the same.

The intention for a study in the U.K. comes after a petition called for action and gained over 13,000 signatures. The petition said some headlights cause oncoming traffic to be “unable to see clearly and safely.”

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Inadequate training for new truckers and other road safety hazards

April 13 2024, Toronto Star

I am writing to highlight the critical findings unveiled by the Ontario Trucking Association’s (OTA) recent online survey, which was conducted in the fall of 2023 and released this January. The survey results echo the longstanding concerns articulated by our advocacy group, Truckers for Safer Highways, shedding light on glaring safety deficiencies that have persisted across northern Ontario’s highways.

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Exclusive-Mobileye set to ship at least 46 million new assisted driving chips

April 17 2024, Yahoo Finance Canada

Israeli automotive tech company Mobileye said on Wednesday it had secured orders to ship 46 million of its EyeQ6 Lite assisted-driving chips over the next few years as automakers race to make cars safer and easier to drive.

Mobileye is selling the EyeQ6 Lite in all major markets around the world, and cars with the technology will be launched in the middle of this year, according to Mobileye's Nimrod Nehushtan, executive vice president of business strategy and development.

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CAA Manitoba Survey Reveals Alarming Data on Cannabis-Impaired Driving in Manitoba

April 17 2024, Canada Newswire

CAA Manitoba (CAA MB) is encouraging Manitoba drivers to remain vigilant this month by driving responsibly - and sober. In a recent survey conducted by CAA Manitoba, alarming data highlights concerns related to cannabis-impaired driving, particularly involving edibles. Key findings from the 2023 survey found that since legalization, a third of impaired drivers (27 per cent) in Manitoba have driven a vehicle after consuming an edible form of cannabis.

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US probe of Hondas that can activate emergency braking for no reason moves closer to a recall

April 17 2024, CityNews Ottawa

A U.S. government investigation into unexpected automatic braking involving nearly 3 million Hondas is a step closer to a recall.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said Wednesday it has upgraded a probe opened in February of 2022 to an engineering analysis after it received 1,294 complaints about the problem, mainly from consumers and through the company. An engineering analysis is the last step before the agency can seek a recall, although the vehicles are not being recalled at this time.

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ICBC talking to teens about road safety ahead of graduation

April 19 2024, Castanet

ICBC is urging safe choices ahead of high school graduation season.

New drivers are eight times more likely to be involved in a fatal crash than an experienced driver, and that's why ICBC road safety speakers are visiting high schools around the province.

They want to connect with teens through sharing their personal stories and help students realize the life-changing consequences of taking risks behind the wheel.

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Number of drivers suspended for drugs growing 'higher and higher' in Sask.: SGI

April 20 2024, BattlefordsNOW

April 20 - commonly referred to as 4/20 - has long been associated with cannabis culture in Canada and around the world.

But while many will be lighting pipes, sparking up joints and munching on edibles Saturday, SGI is warning users that more and more people in Saskatchewan are getting caught driving while impaired by drugs.

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Better year for traffic safety in 2023

April 21 2024, Bay Observer

On any given day throughout 2023 Hamilton experienced 25 traffic accidents. That was just one statistic contained in the Hamilton Police Service year end traffic report. Still, the 8,979 traffic accidents in 2023 was down from over 9,200 in 2022 and considerably below the 11,593 reported in 2019, the last year before the pandemic.

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B.C. bans self-driving vehicles on its roads

April 22 2024, CBC

Earlier this month, changes to B.C.'s Motor Vehicle Act quietly came into effect, prohibiting the use of fully automated self-driving vehicles.

The new legislation restricts someone from driving Level 3 or higher automated vehicles, as defined by the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE), and also prohibits the use of features that cause a vehicle to operate as a Level 3 or higher automated vehicle.

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Distracted driving deaths in Ontario increased by 36% in 2 years: report

April 23 2024, NOW Toronto

On Tuesday, insurance company HelloSafe Canada released new details about distracted driving statistics across the province and how they've been on the rise since 2019.

Distracted driving is defined as any source of interruption while operating a vehicle, including texting, programming a GPS, grooming and eating and drinking.

In 2021, 17.9 per cent of deaths on roads in Ontario were caused by distracted driving, compared to 14.4 per cent in 2019.

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IQ Camera to detect distracted, drowsy driving

April 23 2024, Truck News

Teletrac Navman has released its driver distraction, cell phone usage, and drowsy driver detection to its AI-powered dashcam and video telematics solution - the IQ Camera.

The IQ Camera's video telematics capabilities can identify behavior, such as mobile phone use, erratic head movements and gaze deviations, and help the driver maintain focus on the road.

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How To Stay Safe and Avoid Cycling Accidents

April 24 2024, Mondaq

Many of us learned to ride a bicycle at an early age and continue to ride as the years go by. It is a great form of exercise and one of the fastest-growing transportation modes in Toronto, according to the city's website.

The City of Toronto has pledged to grow, expand and enhance the cycling network and provide a safe and dedicated space for cyclists with the aim of protecting vulnerable road users.

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New Halifax road safety plan includes better data, targeted projects

April 26 2024, CBC

Reactions from Halifax councillors to the city's new road safety strategy are largely positive as the municipality moves toward an ambitious goal of zero fatalities and serious injuries on local roads by 2038.

Staff presented the new plan to the city's transportation standing committee Thursday. It replaces the former five-year strategy that recently finished, but this one has no end date.

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Plan for new body to investigate road crashes

April 28 2024, Yahoo News Canada

Vehicle crashes could be investigated by a new organisation under Government plans to boost road safety.

The Department for Transport (DfT) announced it is consulting on proposals to establish a Road Collision Investigation Branch (RCIB).

It would operate in a similar way to existing independent bodies which investigate air, maritime and rail accidents.

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Travelers Canada Announces Results of Distracted Driving Risk Survey

April 29 2024, Yahoo Finance Canada

The Travelers Companies, Inc. (NYSE: TRV) today announced the results of the 2024 Travelers Canada Distracted Driving Risk Survey.

Almost half of the Canadian drivers surveyed said they believe roads are less safe than they were a year ago.

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Tractor-trailers with no one aboard? The future is near for self-driving trucks on US roads

April 29 2024, CityNews Toronto

On a three-lane test track along the Monongahela River, an 18-wheel tractor-trailer rounded a curve. No one was on board.

A quarter-mile ahead, the truck's sensors spotted a trash can blocking one lane and a tire in another. In less than a second, it signaled, moved into the unobstructed lane and rumbled past the obstacles.

The self-driving semi, outfitted with 25 laser, radar and camera sensors, is owned by Pittsburgh-based Aurora Innovation.

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Tesla Autopilot recall to be probed by US regulator

April 29 2024, Yahoo News Canada

The US auto regulator is investigating whether Tesla's biggest ever recall successfully addressed safety concerns relating to its driver assistance system.

In December, Tesla issued a software update to two million of its vehicles in the US to fix problems with its Autopilot feature.

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National Safety Council Announces 2024 Road to Zero Community Traffic Safety Grant Winners

April 29 2024, Yahoo Finance Canada

The National Safety Council is proud to announce the 2024 recipients of the Road to Zero Community Traffic Safety Grants. Through funding provided by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the awarded grants are for projects, programs and research dedicated to achieving the mission of zero traffic fatalities.

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Distracted driving accounts for more than 25% of traffic deaths in Alberta: report

April 30 2024, CTV News Calgary

Alberta is leading the country when it comes to deaths from distracted driving, accounting for more than 25 per cent of fatal collisions in the province.

The report, published by HelloSafe after compiling the most recent statistics from Transport Canada, Alberta government, Statistics Canada and the Canadian Automobile Association, says 76 Albertans died from distracted driving (opens in a new tab) in 2021, 30 more than in 2020.

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US will require all new cars to have advanced automatic braking systems by 2029

April 30 2024, Yahoo Finance Canada

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) just announced new federal safety standards for automobiles. These standards include a mandate for advanced automatic braking systems for all new cars, which manufacturers must comply with by 2029. That's just five years out.

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Canadian Events & Conferences in 2024

CARSP Spring Webinar

May, 2024

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CARSP Conference 2024

June 16-19, 2024

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Ontario Traffic Council Events

[Learn more](#)

TAC Conference 2024

September 22-25, 2024

[Learn more](#)

MTO 2024 Road Safety Events Calendar

January 1- December 31, 2024

[Learn more](#)

Transport Canada's Vehicle Cyber Security Conference 2024

February 1, 2024

[Learn more](#)

Impaired Driving Behavioral Interventions around the Globe

March 13, 2024

[Learn more](#)

CTRF Conference 2024

May 12-15, 2024

[Learn more](#)

ITE Canada Conference 2024

June 9-12, 2024

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