

MISSION

To save lives, prevent injuries, and reduce the costs of traffic crashes – among drivers, passengers, pedestrians, and bicyclists

MOTOR VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT

We are responsible for the safety of the design, manufacture and performance of motor vehicles and equipment – that includes cars, trucks, buses, ambulances, shuttles and any related equipment, including tires and car seats.

In doing our jobs,

- We crash-test cars;
- We test cars and equipment for cyber-vulnerabilities, electrical defects, and other safety risks;
- We write regulations so that manufacturers can self-certify that they meet safety standards;
- We review thousands of safety complaints each month, and perform detailed investigations where warranted;
- We oversee safety recalls of motor vehicles and equipment;
- We perform research on new and emerging technologies and develop science-based test procedures; and
- We regulate how far a vehicle must travel on a gallon of fuel.



PEOPLE

We are charged by Congress to change human behaviors that can lead to traffic crashes. Those risky behaviors include: driving while impaired by alcohol or drugs, not wearing a seat belt in a vehicle, driving distracted, speeding, improper use or lack of using proper child restraints, and walking or riding a bicycle while impaired or distracted.

- We develop public education campaigns to support safe decisions by drivers, passengers, bicyclists, and pedestrians.
- We share information on vehicle, tire, car seat, and other equipment ratings so consumers can make informed purchasing decisions.
- Two-thirds of our budget goes to funding State traffic safety programs in public education, law enforcement, toxicology, and the judicial system.
- We collect and analyze data from all of the States to build a national database of traffic risk.
- We investigate crashes to learn how human and vehicle factors contribute to crashes.



What role does NHTSA have in supporting first responders?

- We coordinate the national EMS system.
- We co-coordinate the national 911 system.

