



12:45:42 EDT Friday, Apr 18, 2008

What's New (Please Select One)

[Help Us Make a Difference](#)

## Newsroom



### TrafficSafetyNews

#### New Traffic Safety News Email

**List...** Would you like to receive an email reminder when the traffic safety news articles are updated on the Foundation's home page? If so, please [send us an email](#) with the word "subscribe" in the subject line. Then simply reply to the confirmation email to start your subscription.

#### [Study: Collision, Lane Departure Systems Show Promise](#)

**AFX News Limited,**  
April 16, 2008

#### [Report: Some Auto Safety Gear's Value Limited](#)

**USA TODAY,**  
April 17, 2008

#### [GPS Routed Bus Under Bridge, Company Says](#)

**SEATTLE POST-INTELLIGENCER REPORTER,**  
April 18, 2008

#### [C.T. Senate Backs Tighter Rules For Young Drivers](#)

**The Hartford Courant, Connecticut,**  
April 17, 2008

#### [Bike Rodeo Aims To Teach Kids Safety In Arizona](#)

**Albuquerque Journal,**  
April 17, 2008

## Report: Some auto safety gear's value limited

by  
Jayne O'Donnell  
USA TODAY  
April 17, 2008

Some pricey new safety gear that automakers have billed as technology breakthroughs that will save lives may have only limited protective value. Insurance Institute for Highway Safety concludes in a report out today.

Federal safety officials and many automakers have hailed the "crash-avoidance" devices as their best hope for lowering the annual U.S. death toll in car crashes from the current 42,000. Unlike safety belts and air bags, the new devices are not to lessen injuries from a crash but to prevent one in the first place.

But some of the devices may not work well, the IIHS says, because so many drivers are likely to ignore the warnings, turn them off or drive with less care. Some are installing devices that warn you, for example, if you leave a lane without signaling, alert you to blind spots and detect other vehicles -- and some don't apply the brakes if you don't.

Blind-spot-detection devices aren't likely to save many lives, the IIHS says, because blind spots seldom lead to fatal crashes. And while another technology, "adaptive" headlights -- helps you see hazards around curves and corrects the beam, the IIHS says any benefits might be offset by people who would drive faster.

"It's tempting to become cheerleaders for any new feature that promises to address some mistake or another (that) drivers make," says IIHS President John Lund. "But for the most part, the features being installed in current models will give drivers information."

Among the technologies the IIHS did say would likely help save lives are lane-departure warnings and of lane departures. Still, because these technologies exist mainly on newer car models, there's too little crash data to determine the number of lives saved or crashes that they've averted.

The IIHS says that if lane-departure warnings existed on all vehicles, they could prevent up to 2,500 of the 10,000 annual deaths that occur after cars leave their lanes. The agency analyzed the number of crashes from 2002 to 2006 that have been affected by the new technologies and the number of those that were fatal.

[N.Y. DA to Crack Down on Reckless Drivers: Urges Officials Not to Allow Students to Leave Campus During School Day](#)  
**Newsday, Melville, N.Y.,**  
 April 17, 2008

---

[Funds Target Drunken Drivers: Grant Extended for California Corridor](#)  
**The Monterey County Herald, Calif.,**  
 April 17, 2008

---

[Court Rules DUI Does Not Count As Violent Felony](#)  
**Associated Press,**  
 April 16, 2008

---

[Calming Effort Too Much of Good Thing?](#)  
**Tampa Tribune, Fla.,**  
 April 12, 2008

---

[Drivers On Road After Repeat DUIs](#)  
**USA TODAY,**  
 April 15, 2008

---

[V.A. Woman Gives Thanks / Honors Lawmakers for Passing Child Transportation-Safety Bill](#)  
**Richmond Times-Dispatch,**  
 April 10, 2008

---

[Safe Bridges in State? Mdot Invests in Inspection Process](#)  
**The Mississippi Business Journal,**  
 April 15, 2008

---

[Intoxicated Drivers Face Lockouts](#)  
**USA TODAY,**  
 April 15, 2008

---

[Righteous Red-light Cameras](#)  
**The Atlanta Journal-Constitution,**  
 April 16, 2008

---

[Academy Gets Wired Up to Give Drivers Real-time Crash Reports](#)  
**The Gazette,**  
 March 22, 2008

---

[Louisiana Rolls Out Work Zone Safety Campaign](#)  
**New Orleans CityBusiness,**  
 April 10, 2008

---

[Mid-Size Cars Make Strides in Safety](#)  
**Associated Press,**  
 April 10, 2008

---

Tom Baloga, BMW's vice president of engineering, counters that the figure "significant limitations in accuracy," adding that "the more groups that do this," the better the life-saving benefits will be.

Electronic stability control, which uses brakes and engine power to keep veering off the road, has buoyed hopes for crash-avoidance gear because estimates it could save up to 10,000 lives a year when all vehicles included. That's helped shift attention from preventing injuries to preventing crashes.

"We agree with Mr. Lund that not all accidents are preventable, but the new frontier ... will benefit all road users," says Volvo's Dan Johnston.

To see more of USAToday.com, or to subscribe, go to <http://www.usatoday.com>

Copyright 2007 USA TODAY, a division of Gannett Co. Inc.

[Bus Cameras to Keep An Eye on Lawbreakers](#)

**The Roanoke Times, Va.,**

April 11, 2008

---

[Safe Routes to School: State Grant to Improve Paths to Schools](#)

**Ventura County Star, Calif.,**

April 11, 2008

---

[PennDOT Stresses Work-Zone Safety](#)

**The Tribune-Democrat, Johnstown, Pennsylvania,**

April 10, 2008

---

[Motorcyclists Urge Riders to Use Safety Precautions](#)

**The Beaumont Enterprise, Texas,**

April 10, 2008

---

[Teen Accused of Road-Rage Attack](#)

**The News Herald, Panama City, Fla.,**

April 11, 2008

---

[The High-Speed Chase](#)

**Greensboro News & Record,**

April 6, 2008

---

[Safety in Numbers; Porta Students Target Careful Use of Cell Phones While Driving](#)

**The State Journal-Register**

**Springfield, IL,**

March 13, 2008

---

[Detroit Free Press: Safety is Name of Game for Teens](#)

**Detroit Free Press,**

April 7, 2008

---

[Washington State City Planners to Revisit Master Plan for Bicycles](#)

**The Spokesman-Review, Spokane, Wash.,**

April 7, 2008

---

[Work Zone Safety](#)

**Knight Ridder/Tribune Business News,**

April 8, 2008

---

[Safer Sidewalks; Ill. Elementary School Receives Federal Grant to Upgrade Safety for Students Who Walk, Ride Bikes](#)

**The State Journal-Register**

**Springfield, IL,**

March 14, 2008

---

[Motorists Who Paid Abusive Driver Fines to Be Offered Refunds](#)

**The Virginian-Pilot, Norfolk, Va.,**April 7, 2008

---

[Auto Club: Teen Crashes Cost \\$2.8 Billion to Californians-AAA Calls for Improved Graduated Driver Licensing to Counter Nearly...](#)

**Market Wire,**April 4, 2008

---

[Safety Concern Cited on Smart Micro Car](#)

**Associated Press,**April 3, 2008

---

[Boston Bill Would Give More Kids Boost in the Car](#)

**The Sun, Lowell, Massachusetts,**April 3, 2008

---

[Research Links Smoking Ban to Drunken Driving](#)

**U-WIRE,**April 3, 2008

---

[Transportation Needs Require Quick Action in V.A.](#)

**Richmond Times-Dispatch,**March 27, 2008

---

['SPEED DOES KILL': Law Enforcement Agencies Kick Off Campaign to Slow Down Drivers in N.C.](#)

**Times-News, Burlington, N.C.,**April 2, 2008

---

[Drive Drunk, Get Poked: Blood Tests Mandatory in Michigan County](#)

**Detroit Free Press,**March 31, 2008

---

[General Assembly Urges Stepped Up Efforts to Reduce 1.2 Million Annual Deaths on World's Roads](#)

**Associated Press,**April 1, 2008

---

[Millions Are Dying on the World's Roads. It's Time to Act](#)

**The Independent - London,**March 31, 2008

---

[Madison Program Helps Teens Improve Driving](#)

**The Wisconsin State Journal,**April 1, 2008

---

[Donations To Help City Buy Bike Helmets](#)

**The Columbian, Vancouver, Wash.,**  
April 1, 2008

---

[Fasten Your Seat Belts](#)

**Bangor Daily News Bangor, ME,**  
April 1, 2008

---

[Revamped Teen Driving Law  
Making An Impact](#)

**The Sun, Lowell, Massachusetts,**  
April 1, 2008

---

['Stop' Does Not Stand for 'Slightly  
Tap on Pedal'](#)

**Albuquerque Journal,**  
March 30, 2008

---

[Mom Called and Said, 'Slow Down!'](#)

**Associated Press,**  
March 27, 2008

---

[Insurers Offer Discounts,  
Monitoring Services for Young  
Drivers](#)

**Associated Press,**  
March 27, 2008

---

[NTSB Concerned About Control of  
Probe](#)

**Associated Press,**  
March 26, 2008

---

[Alerting Drivers to 'Move Over'  
Law / Signs Will Be Posted Along  
Interstates 81, 77 in Southwest  
Va.](#)

**Richmond Times-Dispatch,**  
March 21, 2008

---

[End of Road Eyed for Drowsy  
Truckers](#)

**USA TODAY,**  
March 26, 2008

---

[Students With Cell Phones May  
Take More Risks, Study Finds](#)

**NewsRx.com,**  
March 27, 2008

---

[Tucson's Rash of Road Deaths:  
Five Fatalities of Bicyclists,  
Pedestrians So Far This Year](#)

**The Arizona Daily Star, Tucson,**  
March 27, 2008

---

[Warning Issued on Street Gang:  
Motorists Alerted Over Initiation  
Rite](#)

**The Buffalo News, N.Y.,**  
March 27, 2008

---

[Guide Details Best Car Features for Older Drivers](#)

**Newsday, Melville, N.Y.,**

March 25, 2008

---

[ADOT Requests Pedestrian Input on Highway System](#)

**The Arizona Daily Star, Tucson,**

March 25, 2008

---

[Changes Sought for V.A.'s Troubled Driver's Education Program](#)

**The Virginian-Pilot and The Ledger-Star, Norfolk, VA,**

March 24, 2008

---

[Rescuers Changing Tactics in Accidents](#)

**Knight Ridder/Tribune Business News,**

March 25, 2008

---

[R.I. Police Department Cited for Reducing Underage Drinking](#)

**The Providence Journal,**

March 25, 2008

---

[Ill. Gov. OKs Bill Targeting Repeat Offenders on the Road](#)

**The State Journal-Register Springfield, IL,**

June 3, 2000

---

[Wrong-Way Crashes -- Anyplace, Anytime in Washington](#)

**SEATTLE POST-INTELLIGENCER REPORTER,**

March 25, 2008

---

[Bad Behavior Runs Rampant on American Highways](#)

**The Virginian-Pilot and The Ledger-Star, Norfolk, VA,**

March 14, 2008

---

[A Sobering Demonstration: Save A Life Tour Illustrates Dangers of Alcohol to N.C. Teens, Marines](#)

**The Daily News, Jacksonville, N.C.,**

March 20, 2008

---

## NewsItems

- [Complete News Article Library](#)

- [Annual Reports](#)
- [Foundation Newsletter](#)
- [Permissions](#)
- [Photolibrary](#)
- [Presentations](#)
- [Press Releases](#)
- [PSAs and Other Clips](#)
- [Video Vault](#)

---

[About Us](#) | [Products](#) | [Projects](#) | [Media](#) | [Resources](#) | [Quizzes](#) | [Contact Us](#)  
[E-mail Webmaster](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Site Map](#)

© 2008 AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety