

Teen Distractions

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What is The National Organizations for Youth Safety (NOYS)?

- NOYS is a coalition of non-profit and for-profit youth serving organizations and government agencies working together toward the common goal of addressing health and safety issues that affect youth in the United States.
- **Mission** : To build partnerships that will save lives, prevent injuries, and promote safe and healthy lifestyles among all youth and encourage youth empowerment and leadership
- **Vision** : To be the premier national youth health and safety coalition.

The Problem – What is it?

- Teens become easily distracted from various things while driving:
 - Cell Phones
 - Changing music
 - Headphones
 - Other people
- Teens are unaware of railroad safety
 - Parents do not inform their children of railroad safety
 - Many parents are unaware of railroad safety themselves
- Teens are not taught railroad safety in Driver's Education
- Teens do not see being on railroads as trespassing

Parent/Teen Communication

- Parents are the main influence of teens
 - Parents must be the first to teach their children about railroad safety
- Parents must first understand the issue themselves
- How do parents become informed?
 - Drivers Ed classes/parent classes
 - Community Outreach Programs

Driver's Education

- Teens are not taught extensively about driving and railroads
- Teens do not view railroad tracks as a danger
 - Unless the lights are flashing, and rails are down, youth do not recognize the railroad
- If one does not follow laws with railroads, only one point is deducted, in the State of Michigan.
- There must be a higher standard for railroad safety within driver's education classes

Trespassing

- Youth see hanging out/taking pictures on railroad as a popular idea
- Unless parents inform youth, there is no system set up to inform them
- Inform parents
- Inform youth of the danger at a young age through classes in school

How To Fix the Problem

- Create a national campaign
 - Through commercials
 - Make railroad safety the same as other national campaigns
- Example from other campaigns
 - No texting and driving
 - No drinking and driving
 - Wear your seatbelt
- Create more extensive driving education classes in ALL classes

How To Fix the Problems

- Teach youth about dangers in classes starting with young elementary-age children
- Create communication lines for youth and parents