2019 Young Driver Crash Report

In 2019, the Fairfax County Police Department (FCPD) investigated 1,220 total crashes involving young drivers (aged 15-20). FCPD officers determined that in 860 of those crashes an improper driver’s action taken by the young diver was the cause of the crash, representing a 7.7% decrease from 2018. The attached map shows the locations of those 860 crashes. Over two thirds of the 860 crashes were attributable to just three improper driver’s actions: Fail to Maintain Proper Control of Vehicle, Driver Did Not Have Right of Way and Following Too Closely.

Driving is a complex task, and younger drivers need to be aware of their own inexperience and take steps to ensure they remain focused on their driving. Obeying speed limits and eliminating distractions are two of the most important things young drivers can do to ensure they arrive at their destination safely. Distractions such as phones and other electronic devices, eating, and even talking to other passengers pose great dangers to all drivers. Younger drivers are no exception and are especially susceptible to the distractions posed by their passengers in the vehicle.

When you mix these distractions with speed and driver inexperience, the result can be fatal. Over the five year period from 2015-2019, FCPD officers determined that 14 fatal crashes were caused by an improper action taken by a young driver; representing nearly 10% of all fatal crashes investigated by the FCPD over that period. Speed was a factor in 10 of those crashes and multiple passengers were present in the vehicle in seven of the 14 crashes. These crashes claimed the lives of nine drivers, four passengers and one pedestrian.

For all of the younger drivers in our community, please remember to put the phone down, tell your passengers to be quiet, slow down and pay attention to your driving. Changing your playlist is not worth your life or your friends’ lives. Please drive safely.

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Slow Down. Phone Down. ARRIVE ALIVE.

2019 Young Driver Crashes
- Non-Fatal (858)
- Fatal (2)

The 860 crashes represented on this map were caused by improper driver action by young drivers 15 - 20 years of age.