



News Release

Media Contact:
Georjeane Blumling, Ph.D
Vice President Public Relations
757-233-3825
Gblum@tidewater.aaa.com

AAA SURVEY DISPELS MYTH OF SENIORS AS DANGEROUS DRIVERS

Launches website with tools to help seniors drive safer & longer

VIRGINIA BEACH, VA (April 4, 2012) –Nearly 90 percent of senior drivers say it's important to them to keep driving – and they will do what it takes to stay safe, according to a recent survey by the American Automobile Association (AAA). As 10,000 Americans turn 65 every day, AAA is helping drivers and their families cope with the life-changing transitions facing the "silver tsunami" with expert advice and easy-to-find resources at a newly re-launched website AAA.com/SeniorDriving.

Helping to dispel the all-too-common myth that seniors are dangerous drivers, AAA's survey indicates that motorists age 65 and older often 'self-police' their driving or avoid driving situations that put them at greater risk of a crash. In fact, 80 percent of senior drivers voluntarily avoid one or more high-risk driving situations. More than half (61 percent) of these drivers avoid driving in bad weather; 50 percent avoid night driving; 42 percent avert trips in heavy traffic and 37 percent avoid unfamiliar roads. To view results from AAA's survey of older drivers visit NewsRoom.AAA.com.

"By 2020 – just eight years from now – it's estimated that nearly one in six people will be age 65 or older and most of them will still be licensed to drive," said AAA President and CEO Robert L. Darbelnet. "No matter how active and healthy seniors are today, it's evident that anxiety about giving up the keys is still an age-old concern."

As a leading road safety advocate for 110 years, AAA continues to provide expert advice and helpful resources for older adults and their families – working to support them as they tackle the challenge of balancing safety and mobility. AAA has launched an improved senior driving website AAA.com/SeniorDriving as a one-stop resource with state-specific driver information, quizzes, videos and Q&As, slideshows and even unique brain fitness exercises shown to cut the risk of a traffic crash in half.

To help manage the effects of aging on driving ability, AAA Tidewater Virginia also offers the following resources for older drivers:

- [AAA Roadwise Review](#) is a computer-based self-screening tool designed to assess a driver's functional abilities important to safe driving.
- [CarFit](#) and AAA's [Smart Features for Mature Drivers](#) help to enhance seniors' comfort and safety while driving.
- AAA Tidewater Virginia offers [classroom](#) and [online classes](#) which provide driver training to help address the changes caused by aging and how a driver may compensate.

Virginia ranks sixteenth-highest in the nation, for traffic fatalities where a 65+ driver was involved. There were 134 fatalities in Virginia crashes that involved senior drivers in 2010. Virginia has over 807,000 drivers who are 65 and older – about 15 percent of the state's total number of licensed drivers.

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The top ten states for fatalities involving a driver 65 or older are (in order of most to least) Florida, Texas, California, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Georgia, New York, Ohio, Michigan and Tennessee. Information for all 50 states can be found [here](#).

As part of North America's largest motoring and leisure travel organization, AAA Tidewater Virginia provides its more than 325,000 members with travel, insurance, financial and automotive-related services. Since its founding AAA Tidewater Virginia has been a leader and advocate for the safety and security of all travelers. For more information, visit AAA.com and follow us on Twitter at [Twitter.com/AAATWnews](https://twitter.com/AAATWnews).

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