

In This Issue:

- Welsh Road Fatalities at Lowest Ever Level
- Illegal Driver Campaign
- New Evaluation Website
- Enzo Calzaghe Supports Seatbelt Campaign
- New Motor Insurance Law
- Bikeability for North Wales
- Cycle Smart
- Government to Change Driving Rules on Eyesight
- Daytime Running Lights

Fatalities on Welsh Roads at Lowest Levels Ever

Deputy First Minister, Ieuan Wyn Jones has welcomed figures that show that fatalities on Welsh roads are at their lowest levels since records began.

The Police Reported Road Traffic Fatalities, 2010 show that there were 89 deaths on Welsh roads, which are the lowest since 1968 when this information was first compiled in Wales, and the first time the figure has been below 100.



Mr Jones, who is also the Minister for Economy and Transport said,

"This government is committed to making Wales' roads safer for all who use them and these figures make very welcome reading. This is the lowest figure that has ever been recorded in Wales and demonstrates that the promotion of safe driving through effective education, safety improvements on our roads and tougher enforcement is paying off."

The report, published by the Welsh Assembly Government, also found that there has been a 71% reduction in child fatalities in Wales, when compared to the 1994-98 figures.

"Whilst today's release is very encouraging, we cannot and will not be complacent. As the police, A&E staff, road safety experts and the families of those who have tragically died in road collisions will tell you, we all need to do more, the Minister said.

"Road safety messages, particularly among young drivers, still need to be heard. We will continue to work with the Regional transport consortia and road safety professionals to see if there is more we can do to educate young drivers to the dangers of driving and the potential for tragedy every time they get into a vehicle."

During 2010, there were 82 fatal accidents in Wales resulting in 89 fatalities, which is 36 fewer than were killed during 2009, a fall of 29 per cent. This means that 2010 had the lowest measured level of road traffic fatalities in Wales since 1968 when separate Welsh figures were first compiled.

Traffic fatalities in Wales most recently peaked in 1973 with a total of 424 people killed; but fatalities generally declined over the following years, falling to 161 by 2007. The number of road traffic fatalities fell steadily over the next three years. By 2010, based on patterns for the United Kingdom as a whole, it is probably the lowest level of traffic fatalities in Wales since the 1920s.

The allocation of over £35million in road safety grants since 2007 has enabled local authorities to implement a range of road safety projects that have contributed to this downward trend of fatalities that we see today.

Further Statistical Information can be found at [StatsWales](http://StatsWales.gov.wales)



The final quarter of 2010 saw one of the largest police crackdowns against uninsured and illegal drivers in Wales with nearly 350 vehicles seized from people driving without insurance.

Hailed a great success, the all Wales Illegal Driver Campaign led by North Wales Police, ran between 19 October and 2 November 2010 and was launched at the Rhyl Community Fire Station.

The crackdown targeted those driving without insurance, driving whilst disqualified, or driving without a valid licence. Throughout the campaign officers utilised ANPR (Automatic Number Plate Recognition) technology and worked closely with colleagues at the MIB Police Helpline.

"This campaign was about denying criminals the use of the roads, saving the ordinary driver from higher insurance premiums and reducing road casualties," said North Wales Police Assistant Chief Constable Gareth Pritchard.

"Although the operation has ended, we will continue to target those who flout the law and endanger the lives of other road users and we will continue to work closely with other agencies such as MIB and DVLA to target illegal drivers. There has been public support for this approach, and together we can help make our roads safer."

Sue Storch, Dyfed Powys Police Road Safety Officer and Chair of Road Safety Wales said: "It is disappointing that some drivers choose to ignore the law by driving illegally; however throughout Wales it is excellent news that police seized nearly 350 uninsured vehicles during the campaign.

"Road Safety Wales wants to keep Wales on track as being one of the safest countries in the world in which to travel. Our partnership aim is simple – to ensure that the majority of road users can use our network safely and with confidence."

Encouraging Start For New Evaluation Website

More than 200 users have signed up to the Road Safety Evaluation website which has been developed by RoSPA and the DfT.

The website was launched last year and is free to use for everyone. It is designed to help road safety practitioners evaluate their education, training and publicity activities. The newly registered users include local authorities, the health service, police, driving schools, consultants and other commercial organisations.



At the heart of the Road Safety Evaluation website is E-valu-it, an interactive tool that helps practitioners define exactly what they are doing and why, helps them to design and carry out their evaluation, and promotes the publication and sharing of results.

In addition to the question set, there is also a wealth of information on the website about a wide range of evaluation topics. **Click here** to visit the website, or **click here** to contact the project team.

Enzo Calzaghe Supports Seatbelt Campaign



Enzo Calzaghe, father and trainer of World Champion boxer, Joe Calzaghe is used to giving fighters advice on how best to protect themselves while in the ring.

This time round, as part of the 'Options Seatbelt' campaign being run by in Partnership with South Wales Fire and Rescue Service, Gwent & South Wales Police Forces, Capita Symonds and Local Authority Road Safety Officers, Enzo Calzaghe, is urging the public to protect themselves while travelling in vehicles by always wearing a seatbelt.

Enzo Calzaghe said; "I am extremely pleased to be supporting this campaign". He continued; "wearing your seatbelt really can save your life if you are involved in a road traffic collision".

Neil Brown, Head of Road Safety, South Wales Fire and Rescue Service said; we are delighted that Enzo Calzaghe is supporting this highly important initiative. If this campaign can get more people to wear their seatbelts whilst travelling then we will see less serious injuries and deaths on our roads.

All Wales Seatbelt Campaign was launched by South Wales Police at Barry Town Centre on the 1st February 2011.

The first two weeks of the campaign concentrate on education and publicity and the enforcement side of the campaign commences on the 14th February and finishes on the 28th February.

During the education phase of the campaign both drivers and passengers found to be not wearing a seatbelt are offered the opportunity to attend an option event as an alternative to prosecution. This will consist of a presentation delivered by South Wales Fire & Rescue Service on the dangers of not wearing seatbelts. These presentations take place at various Fire Stations with the intention of raising people's awareness of the devastating consequences of not wearing a seat belt.

DVLA Reminds Motorists of New Motor Insurance Law



The DVLA in conjunction with the Motor Insurers' Bureau (MIB) and the British Insurance Brokers Association (BIBA) are reminding drivers that a new law to be rolled out in late Spring will mean that they must keep their vehicle insured unless they have notified the DVLA that it is being kept off the road.

Information about the new law is being distributed with all V11 tax renewal forms from March in addition to the guidance and video available now on Directgov.

David Evans, DVLA's corporate affairs director, said: "We know that uninsured drivers are a menace on our roads and add around £30 to honest motorists' premiums."

Graeme Trudgill, BIBA's head of corporate affairs said:

"Continuous Insurance Enforcement will help reduce the £500 million burden on innocent motorists caused by uninsured drivers, vehicle keepers should ensure they stay insured or SORN their vehicle if it is laid up, vehicle keepers can always check at askmid.com or speak to their insurance broker or company if they have any doubt."

For more information go to direct.gov.uk/stayinsured.

Bikeability Adopted By North Wales Local Authorities

Bikeability is 'cycling proficiency for the 21st Century' and helps get 'more children cycling, more often, more safely'.

"We regard the introduction of the National Standards Cycle Training as an important progression in the way that we provide training for cyclists. Added to that, being able to deliver training under the Bikeability brand gives our clients the added confidence that comes with having a scheme that is recognised nationally." Dafydd Edwards, Road Safety Officer Conwy.



It is being brought to Wales by CTC the National Cyclists' Organisation as part of a Welsh Assembly Government funded project.

Environment Minister Jane Davidson said:

"As a keen cyclist myself, I am keen to encourage lots more cycling in Wales, both as a mode of transport and as a form of recreation. That is why the Deputy First Minister and I launched the Welsh Assembly Government's Walking and Cycling Action Plan in 2009 which sets out how we will encourage lots more people in Wales to walk and cycle regularly.

"The Bikeability training will help young people in Gwynedd and Conwy to develop the skills and confidence they need to cycle safely. I hope it will also encourage them to cycle regularly. By cycling more and using our cars less we can cut down on our carbon emissions, significantly reduce Wales' footprint and help to ensure that we keep fit, healthy and happy. "

Gwenda Owen, CTC's Cycle Training Development Officer for Wales, has been working with Gwynedd and Conwy to enable them to be the first Local Authorities in Wales to register as Bikeability providers.

Gwenda states 'In showing this level of commitment to Bikeability they are ensuring that young people in Gwynedd and Conwy are given the skills and confidence to cycle where ever they need to go; to school, visiting friends and for recreation; and so allowing young people to benefit from all that cycling has to offer in terms of health, independence and sustainability'

"Gwynedd Council feels privileged to have been given Bikeability Registration. This means we can now feel confident that the Cycle Training we deliver in our Primary School is of the highest standard and has Department for Transport approval" Mai Jones, Green Travel Plan Coordinator.

Bikeability training is also delivered in Denbighshire and available in other parts of Wales through registered training organisations. The bursary program has ensured that all Local Authorities now have access to National Standard Instructors and the majority is working towards delivering to this standard.

Reporters and press photographers are invited to attend Civic Centre, Abergele Road, Colwyn Bay LL22 9SE, at 1:30 pm on Thursday.

For more information please contact Gwenda Owen on 07825 081097

In partnership with CTC, the UK's national cyclists' organisation, Road Safety Wales has updated the bilingual *Cycle Smart* resource to better reflect the National Standards for Cycle Training.



Local Authorities and other agencies have ordered in excess of 30,000 copies to be distributed to young cyclists throughout Wales. The updated resource can also be found at www.roadsafetywales.co.uk/resources

Government to Change Driving Rules on Eyesight



The government is planning to make amendments to minimum driver medical standards on eyesight, epilepsy and diabetes as detailed in a [consultation document](#) published by the Driver Vehicle and Licensing Agency.

The measures relate to the implementation of European minimum medical standards for drivers. While UK standards must be at least at the level of a minimum standard, the UK is not required to relax existing domestic standards where they are justifiably higher than the EU standards.

Road Safety Minister, Mike Penning, said, "Britain has some of the safest roads in the world and licensing rules have an important role in maintaining this position. We must make sure that only those who are safe to drive are allowed on our roads, while at the same time avoiding placing unnecessary restrictions on people's independence.

"We have taken expert advice on the latest evidence on eyesight, epilepsy and diabetes and believe these proposals strike the right balance in allowing as many people as possible to drive, without compromising safety."

Daytime Running Lights

Dedicated daytime running lights (DRLs) are the lamps on vehicles that switch on automatically when the engine is started. They substantially increase the visibility of motor vehicles.



Whereas drivers are only required to switch on their lights in the dark in most countries, DRLs are designed to be switched on during the day. In contrast to conventional headlights, DRLs do not help the driver see the road but rather help other road users see the approaching vehicle.

From 2011 onwards, DLRs will be mandatory for all new cars and small delivery vans in the EU. Trucks and buses will follow in August 2012. Existing vehicles will not have to be retrofitted. Currently, 17 EU countries already have some form of DRL legislation. Click [here](#) for more information on the impact and implementation of DRL legislation.

Contact the Compiler

Compiler: Michelle Harrington, RoSPA mharrington@rospa.com

02920 250 600

RoSPA is not responsible for the content of external internet sites.

