

## Highway safety group targets aggressive drivers

Indiana drivers who routinely speed, dart among traffic lanes, fail to signal intent, and improperly pass may soon be penalized severely for their behavior behind the wheel. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) is partnering with local law enforcement agencies and community organizations to increase public awareness of the dangers and the penalties of aggressive driving. In Indiana, drivers who ignore basic traffic safety laws could be subject to substantial fines, points against their licenses and mandatory traffic school attendance.

Aggressive driving encompasses a number of unlawful and dangerous actions, including exceeding posted speed limits or driving too fast for road conditions, changing lanes without signaling or yielding to other drivers, and passing in emergency lanes or on road shoulders. The more highly publicized "road rage" is a criminal offense that goes beyond carelessness to willful disregard for the safety of others. Aggressive driving, NHTSA points out, can escalate into road rage, sometimes with tragic consequences.

A recent survey sponsored by NHTSA indicates that the majority of U.S. drivers consider unsafe driving practices major threat to their personal safety and that of their families. According to NHTSA, drivers who tailgate, exceed speed limits, run red lights and switch lanes without warning are likely contributors to the more than 6 million crashes that occur in the United States each year.

Several states have already adopted aggressive driving statutes that carry severe penalties, and more may follow suit. For more information on aggressive driving, visit [www.nhtsa.dot.gov](http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov).