



Jim Russell Teen Safe Driving Program Expands to Southern California

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Sonoma, CA ([PRWEB](#)) June 20, 2005 -- In 2004, according to the National Safety Council over 10,000 young drivers between the ages of 15 and 20 were involved in fatal automobile collisions. Automobile accidents are the leading cause of death for this age group, and in Southern California, the dangers and challenges of heavy traffic is especially a concern.

Jim Russell Racing Schools have a way to help by bringing their highly regarded and effective Teen Highway Survival Course to Southern California for a pair of one-day sessions - July 23 at Wild Rivers Park in Irvine and August 6 at Santa Anita Park.

"The worst time for a young driver's first experience with danger is on the highway," said Del Leutbecher, Director of Business Development for the Jim Russell Racing Schools. "When they face a problem such as a car stopping suddenly in front of them, we want them to have the skills to handle the situation."

Budget cuts at the local school levels have eliminated effective defensive driving instruction. The advent of Internet training programs and potential inherent lack of driver accountability has also done little to avert the crisis.

"Young people typically receive just enough information to pass their DMV driver's test, but the Teen Highway Survival Course can make up for the shortfall," said Mark Wolocatiuk, chief instructor and a 24 year veteran of the Russell program.

"Basic fundamentals of how to operate a vehicle and understanding the current traffic laws are not enough to prepare a young driver for the everyday driving hazards they will encounter on the roads," said Wolocatiuk. "We have been teaching safe driving to adults and teenagers for over 20 years."

The Teen Highway Survival Course is taught by professional instructors hand selected by Wolocatiuk. The curriculum is typically 60% driving and 40% instruction. After a brief classroom session, the full-day program includes behind-the-wheel defensive driving exercises focusing on skid control, accident avoidance, anti-lock braking skills and more.

Skid control and accident avoidance skills are taught in a specially designed vehicle called a "SkidCar." Drivers practice emergency skidding scenarios with a Russell instructor at their side.

"Most people never experience a skid until they're in a situation that requires them to have the skills to correct one," said Wolocatiuk. "So we want them to have that chance with us in a safe environment where a mistake doesn't have deathly consequences."

Students also practice other accident avoidance techniques they can use everyday as well as how to properly use Anti-Lock Brakes - all of this training is done behind the wheel of a well maintained vehicle provided by the school.



Class sizes are small with only 48 seats available to drivers with a current drivers license. Drivers with a learners permit and six months of driving experience may also enroll. The school provides the instruction, cars, manuals and lunch for \$495.

"Our long-term track record has shown us that young drivers who receive this type of training are better prepared when they get behind the wheel of a vehicle, and have a greater chance of minimizing or eliminating traffic accidents," said Leutbecher. "This is a great opportunity to expand our program and make a difference in youth driving safety."

To learn more about the program or to purchase a class, please visit drivesafer.com or call 800-733-0345. For complete details on sponsorship opportunities, call Leutbecher at (800) 733-0345, ext. 14.

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