

## Stay Alive – Think When You Drive

Thousands of people are on UNC Charlotte campus every day as pedestrians and drivers, whether they are students, faculty, staff or visitors. The Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) Office wants to promote driving safety to ensure everyone is safe around vehicles.

Driving has become a part of everyday life – whether we are driving to work, school, family events or just driving for fun. There are various responsibilities associated with driving, as well as numerous hazards that can affect everyone's life. Every minute of the day, someone is injured in a car crash according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). These crashes typically occur on daily commutes or during the workday. UNC Charlotte owns and operates more than 480 motor vehicles. When driving around campus there are a few things you should remember:

- **Always wear your seat belt** regardless of if you are in a personal or university-owned vehicle. You should obey the law and wear your seat belt. Seat belt use reduces the chance of fatality by half according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)!
- **Pedestrians have the right of way** when they are in the crosswalks. Always be cautious of individuals darting out into the road with no crosswalk.
- **Be patient and observant.** While navigating campus, stay calm and have patience. Traffic significantly increases around class change on campus.
- **Be cautious in parking lots and decks.** Reduce your speed when driving by parking spots to allow drivers to see you and react while backing up. Remember that not all vehicles have back up cameras. While backing out of a space, remain aware of your surroundings and anyone that may be passing behind.
- **Be aware of bicycle lanes.** On campus, there are bike lanes parallel with the vehicle lanes. Always be alert for bicyclists, especially near intersections.
- **Never drive under the influence of drugs or alcohol.** Drinking alcohol and driving simply do not go together. Some medications can inhibit your ability to safely operate a vehicle.
- **Drive defensively.** Defensive drivers are able to avoid dangers on the road by using their safe driving practices. Always plan ahead while driving and have an escape route.

EHS offers these resources:

- [University Policy 604](#) on Vehicles
- [Service Vehicle Fact Sheet](#) and training checklist
- [National Safety Council](#) vehicle safety resources

Please remember to drive safely around campus, as well as off campus. Driving safely not only protects you, but everyone else around you.

For questions, concerns or more information, email [EHSoffice@uncc.edu](mailto:EHSoffice@uncc.edu) or call 704-687-1111.