



## **Speed and Aggressive Driving Fact Sheet**

- Speeding was listed as a primary contributing factor in 20 (or 19%) of the 106 fatal crashes that occurred in Delaware in 2008.
- As of 6/23/09 speed was listed as a primary contributing factor in 11 (or 28%) of the 40 fatal crashes occurring to date in Delaware. That is 10% higher when compared to the same time last year, and also higher than the percentage of DUI-related fatal crash involvement.
- Aggressive Driving behaviors as a whole (includes speeding, tailgating, red light running, unsafe lane changes, fail to yield the right of way) were responsible for 51% of all fatal crashes in 2008.
- A 2009 Public Opinion Poll by AAA shows that 78% of the public believes aggressive driving is their number one traffic safety concern, surpassing drunk driving (76%).
- In Delaware, 66% of those killed in speed driving related crashes are males, with 54% of them ranging in age between the ages of 15 – 27.
- Most of Delaware's speed related fatal and injury crashes occur in the afternoons and evenings on secondary roads instead of on interstates as many likely believe.
- Nationally, nearly 13,500 people died in speed-related crashes in 2006.
- According to the *Transportation Research Record*, a 1 percent decrease in travel speed reduces injury crashes by about 2 percent, serious injury crashes by about 3 percent and fatal crashes by about 4 percent.
- Tips from the AAA Gas Watcher's Guide
  - Slow down. The faster a vehicle travels, the more fuel it burns.
  - Avoid quick starts and sudden stops. This wastes fuel, is harder on vehicle components and increases the odds of a traffic crash.
  - Maintain steady speeds for the best fuel economy. A car uses extra fuel when it accelerates.
  - Minimize the need to brake by anticipating traffic conditions. Be alert for slowdowns and red lights ahead of you, and decelerate by coasting whenever possible.
  - Travel at moderate speeds on the open road. Higher speeds require more fuel to overcome air resistance. Remember, however, speeds slower than the flow of traffic can create a traffic hazard.
  - Use the air conditioner conservatively. Most air conditioners have an "economy" or "recirculation" setting that reduces the amount of hot outside air that must be chilled. Both settings can reduce the air-conditioning load — and save gas.