Lesson 15

Objective: to understand the young and old driver

Points to ponder:

1. Why is the older driver just as bad as a young driver?
2. What are some problems with older driver?
3. What are some problems with younger driver?

Lesson:

The young driver has many advantages:

 If under 25 you have good depth perception, visual acuity, reaction time and reflexes are in their best possible levels.

Your age group makes up about 15% of the drivers, BUT, are involved in nearly 51% of all highway crashes. Nearly 22% of the drivers are involved in fatal crashes. This is why insurance rates are so high for this age group

**Inexperience is your biggest disadvantage**

Having a license does not mean you are a good driver, it just means you have met the minimum standards to get a license in New Hampshire. It takes years to develop all the skills you need.

The following behaviors were things that contributed to teen-related crashes:

 Inexperience

 Immaturity

 Speed

 Drinking and driving

 Not wearing safety belts

 Distracted driving (cell phones, loud music, other passengers)

 Drowsy driving

 Nighttime driving

 Drug use

The older driver has the experience but have other issues related to aging. These issues are:

 Eyesight – in late 30’s field of vision decreases

 Hearing – more than 40% of men over 65 have hearing defects ( especially men)

 Reflexes - as you age your body cannot react as quickly as when you were younger.

Older drivers are generally very careful and drive slower, they still have higher crash rates than middle-aged drivers. Because of their slow driving, it causes others to take unnecessary chances.

If an older driver is involved in a serious accident, they are more likely to be fatal because their body cannot withstand the trauma of the crash.