

A Resolution Regarding Teen Driving Safety Laws

Offered by:

The International Association of Arson Investigators

The Home Safety Council

National Volunteer Fire Council

Whereas, motor vehicle crashes are the #1 killer of American teens, and

Whereas, young drivers between 16 and 20 years of age have a fatality rate that is 4 times the rate for drivers between 25 and 70 years of age;

Whereas, in the past ten years alone, more than 80,000 people lost their lives in crashes involving young drivers ages 15 to 20;

Whereas, fire, emergency medical, law enforcement and other emergency professionals are faced every day with the tragic consequences of crashes involving teen drivers;

Whereas the inexperience of teen drivers can pose potential risk to public safety responders, serious consideration must be given to programs, initiatives and legislation that will reduce the risk of injury or death to first responders;

Whereas, Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) programs introduce teens to the driving experience gradually by phasing in full driving privileges over time and in lower risk settings;

Whereas, research has shown that GDL programs are an effective method for reducing the crash risk of new drivers;

Whereas, state GDL laws still vary widely in strength and effectiveness from state to state;

Whereas, the Safe Teen And Novice Driver Uniform Protection (STANDUP) Act is a proposed federal law based on research showing the effectiveness of GDL laws, as well as on recommendations of the National Transportation Safety Board;

Whereas, the STANDUP Act is supported by leading safety organizations;

Therefore, it is resolved that the National Advisory Committee to the Congressional Fire Services Institute expresses its support for the enactment of the Safe Teen And Novice Driver Uniform Protection (STANDUP) Act.