



Program aimed to keep teens safe on the road

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BLUFFTON, SC (WTOC) - Vehicle crashes are the number one cause of death for people between the ages of 16 and 24 and nationally 29 people in that age group die each day in traffic crash.

At Bluffton High School, five students have lost their lives in vehicle crashes since the school opened in 2004.

To help reduce those statistics, the Bluffton Police Department, Bluffton High School and the National Safety Council are teaming up to bring a national program called Alive at 25 to the school.

High schoolers who want to drive to school next year will have to take the four and half hour defensive driving course in order to get their school parking pass. A tactic everyone is hoping will cut down on driving fatalities.

"It's designed to help them change their behaviors," said Chief David McAllister. "The biggest part of the program is the fact that they get to talk with these professionals about their observations on the road."

The police department will be holding a kickoff in October and then officers will be teaching the course on a monthly basis. While this course is for Bluffton high schoolers, it is open to any teenager. The cost is \$35.

As part of the program, if a young person receives a citation in Bluffton, they must complete this course before they will be offered a plea agreement in municipal court.