



## Preventing teen driving deaths

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BLUFFTON, SC (WCSC) - Teens make up about 14 percent of the drivers on our roads, but they are in about 30 percent of all accidents. Now Bluffton police are trying to make sure students are still "alive at 25."

At Bluffton High School, five students have died in the last 4 years. Bluffton Police Chief McAllister says that's five students too many.

"That's when I reached the point, when I got a call last year that a senior had died in a car wreck on prom night," Chief McAllister says.

That student was Josh George, a senior soccer player who was just about to graduate. Hunter Vandice was a Freshman when it happened, and says everyone was affected.

"It made me more cautious on the road and more responsible with people around me," he says.

Now Bluffton Police are bringing a defensive driving course to high school students.

"It's got pretty graphic videos, pretty graphic stories, its got interaction between police and kids, its real," McAllister says. "They do things like drag racing, aggressive driving crazy things to feel that independence and that speed."

The course also targets talking on the cell phone while driving and texting while driving, and even worse.

"They are playing video games on the cell phone while driving."

"Alive at 25" is an optional program, but students in Bluffton have to complete it to get a parking permit. So far, it's offered at 16 high schools across the state. For more information, call the National Safety Council at (800) 733-6185.