



# Northamptonshire Safety matters



Northamptonshire Highways

**Working together to keep you safe**  
**Safety ~ Prevention ~ Protection**

Issue 1: March 2017

## Can you Imagine trying to swim in clingfilm?

**When you enter outdoor water your muscles will tighten, contort and paralyse causing you to drown - silently**



## Water safety

Drowning is the third highest cause of accidental death among children in the UK.

One person drowns every 20 hours in the UK and hundreds more suffer life changing injuries through near drowning. For more information about staying safe around water both at home and on holiday see [www.rlss.org.uk](http://www.rlss.org.uk) and [www.sta.co.uk/events/national-water-safety-week](http://www.sta.co.uk/events/national-water-safety-week)

## Think before you park!

Can emergency services get past? Can those in wheelchairs, visually impaired or with pushchairs get past? You could be committing an offence if you:

- park within the confines of a pedestrian crossing or zig zag lines outside of a school
- park in a bus bay / taxi rank
- cause an unnecessary obstruction
- park within 10 metres of a junction
- park on a footpath
- obstruct a dropped kerb
- breach a 'no waiting' regulation



**DON'T STOP HERE**

## Would you park on these zig-zags? Please keep our school gates clear!



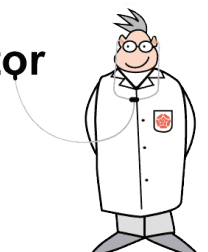
Northamptonshire Highways



You can report and track problems with roads, pavements and street furniture on-line with Northamptonshire County Council's Street Doctor.

[northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/northamptonshire-highways](http://northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/northamptonshire-highways)

## The Street Doctor



## Using a booster seat? What you should know...

There have been many reports regarding the new stricter rules about booster cushions and this has caused much confusion.

This new amendment to the current regulation 44 is now in effect. This means that parents who currently have booster cushions can legally continue to use them as they have been.

Any new backless booster seats (booster cushion) coming to market from the 9th February 2017 will only be suitable for children above 22kg AND 125cm. Stock that was introduced before this date, will still be eligible for sale.

However, we always recommend that children travel in the high back booster if they are the correct weight and height for it, and fit comfortably within the headrest. A high back booster provides additional head, neck, torso protection and side impact protection that a booster cushion does not.

For more information please see [www.goodeggcarsafety.com](http://www.goodeggcarsafety.com)



## Mobile phone & driving

Using a handheld mobile phone while driving is illegal. It has been since 2003. From 1 March, the penalties for holding and using your phone while driving increased.

**It's now 6 points and £200.**

It is not illegal to use hands free, but any time a driver's attention is not on the road can be dangerous.

## The facts

**Drivers using a hands-free or handheld mobile phone are slower at recognising and reacting to hazards.**

Research shows:

- You are four times more likely to be in a crash if you use your phone.
- Your reaction times are two times slower if you text and drive than if you drink drive, and this increases to three times if you use a handheld phone.
- Even careful drivers can be distracted by a call or text – and a split-second lapse in concentration could result in a crash.

## The law

- It's illegal to use a handheld mobile when driving. This includes using your phone to follow a map, read a text or check social media. This applies even if you're stopped at traffic lights or queuing in traffic.
- It is also illegal to use a handheld phone or similar device when supervising a learner driver.
- You can only use a handheld phone if you are safely parked or need to call 999 or 112 in an emergency and it's unsafe or impractical to stop.
- If you're caught using a handheld phone while driving, you'll get 6 penalty points on your licence and a fine of £200. Points on your licence will result in higher insurance costs.
- If you get just 6 points in the first two years after passing your test, you will lose your licence.
- Using hands free (e.g. for navigation) is not illegal. However, if this distracts you and affects your ability to drive safely, you can still be prosecuted by the police.



# CAR KRAFT

**WANT TO LEARN TO DRIVE?**

**SO YOU THINK YOU CAN DRIVE?**

CarKraft is a **FREE** half-day driving experience at either Rockingham Motor Speedway, Corby or the Porsche Experience Centre, Silverstone Circuit, Northants.

### NON-DRIVERS AGED 15 to 25

First driving lesson with a qualified driving instructor\*  
Starting off interactive workshop  
\*no driving licence required

### DRIVERS AGED 17 to 30

Experience skidding techniques on the Kick Plate and low grip surface\*\*  
On-the-road observed drive\*\*  
Safer driving interactive workshop  
\*\*full driving licence required

**\*\*Now booking for the next FREE CarKraft Experience June 10th 2017\*\***

Rockingham Motor Speedway, Corby  
For further information and to book please see [www.carkraft.info](http://www.carkraft.info)

Rockingham Motor Speedway, Corby, NN17 5AF  
Porsche Experience Centre, Silverstone, NN12 8GR

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## It's back! 5-11 June Child Safety Week 2017



Child Safety Week is run by Child Accident Prevention Trust. This year, Child Safety Week takes place from Monday 5th to Sunday 11th June 2017, with the theme "Safe children: sharing is caring". They are asking friends, families, communities and professionals to show they care by playing their part

in keeping children safe and sharing their experience and knowledge - not just about the horrors of accidents, but also the really practical, simple things they do to prevent them. More information can be found at [www.childsafetyweek.org.uk](http://www.childsafetyweek.org.uk)



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**Safety**

**Prevention**

**Protection**