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Texaco starts program 'Drive to Survive'

TORONTO — Texaco Canada recently announced a major long-term program committed to encourage professional driver training to help reduce the alarming number of traffic fatalities and injuries on Canada's roads.



TEXACO

The program is called *Drive to Survive* and focuses tackling the problem through driver education, public awareness and a co-operative campaign with local agencies to implement safe driving practices.

"The vast majority of driving accidents are caused by driver error; the results of a lack of professional driving training and bad driving habits," said Stuart J. Walker, senior vice-president of Texaco.

"Our aim is to increase the number of properly-trained drivers, which in turn could help reduce traffic deaths in Canada by one third," he said.

As part of its efforts, Texaco Canada has arranged with Young Drivers of Canada to reduce the cost of the Young Drivers course by 10 per cent. Young Drivers is recognized as one of the most thorough driver education programs in Canada, with a strong emphasis on developing defensive driving skills.

Texaco has also launched a broad public awareness campaign to inform and remind Canadians about the importance of safe driving. It includes television and other media advertising, handouts of information pieces by Texaco retailers and a publicity program.

The public awareness campaign will be carried out in Ontario and Edmonton this month.

Other groups to receive support from Texaco's program including the Metropolitan Toronto Police, the Canadian Life Insurance Association, PRIDE (People to Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere), the Ontario Safety League and the Canadian Rehabilitation Council for the Disabled.

The groups have already endorsed the *Drive to Survive* campaign and there will be an ongoing effort to involve these and other interested groups in the campaign.

"Such a major commitment is essential to fight this serious problem," said Mr. Walker.

"Last year in Canada 4,000 people were killed in traffic accidents and 200,000 injured. On top of the untold human suffering, accidents cost Canadians \$2.5 billion annually," he said.

Rolling into future

NC — Plastic parts are in wide use in today's automobiles, including the glass fibre reinforced plastic road springs used in the Chevrolet Corvette and General Motors' new M-vans, the Chevrolet Astro and GMC Safari.

Soon one of the most highly stressed and exposed components on the automobile will make its debut as an all-plastic part: the road wheel.

For several years plastics have been used in the manufacture of road wheels, but that use has been purely cosmetic.

A race-tested passenger car wheel which no longer requires metal reinforcement for adequate strength has been developed by Motor Wheel Corporation.

The first automobiles to be shod with production all-plastic wheels may make their debut on some 1987 GM models.

The wheels are said to be pounds lighter, yet stronger than conventional steel or cast aluminum wheels, requiring no maintenance and will possibly cost less to produce than pressed steel wheels.

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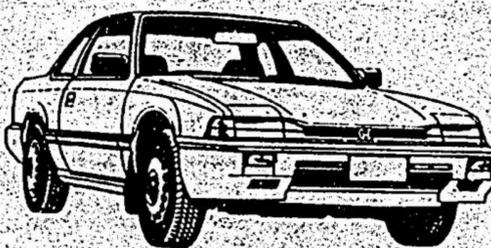
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