



National Automated Vehicle Day—May 31

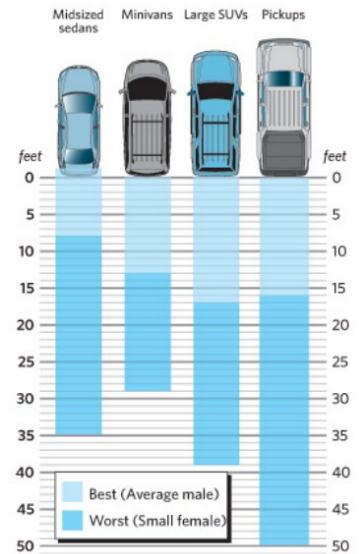


Let’s face it. . . . A flying car piloted by the Jetson family seemed like something we may only see in cartoons and yet in this day and age, we are celebrating “National Automated Vehicle Day”. As the advent of driverless care becomes a routine sight in many parts of the country, it seems crazy to think of getting into a vehicle in which you sit in the back seat and get some work done, while there is no driver up front. Advances in motor

vehicle safety are coming about rapidly and while most of us don’t have cars that drive themselves, there are features in vehicles that parents and caregivers should be aware of to make their rides safer. If you are in the new car markets or are interested in safety features offered as aftermarket add-ons, here are some ideas for you. The following page contains some of these features/options:



- **Back Seat Reminder:** A back seat reminder feature is designed to alert drivers to check the rear seat before exiting their vehicle. This helps prevent incidents of children (or pets) being left unattended in vehicles. Temperatures inside cars can get to be 40-50 degrees hotter than outside and children overheat 3-5 times faster than an adult. These occurrences are what present dangerous situations for children being left alone in cars. These systems provide drivers with that reminder that may be the difference between life and death, so much so that this feature is now standard on vehicles model year 2025 and newer.
- **Back-up Cameras / 360-Degree Cameras:** Blind zones for drivers behind cars can be up to as much as 50 feet (See the image shared by Kids and Car Safety). Backup cameras are an essential safety feature that help prevent accidents while reversing the car. They work by providing a clear view of the area behind the car. If your vehicle is not equipped with a built in system, they can be added to the car as an aftermarket product. Many newer cars also now feature 360-degree camera that help parents monitor their surroundings while parking or maneuvering. These have a visual not just behind the car, but in all directions.
- **Blind Spot Monitoring:** There's lots to pay attention to while driving, especially if you have a car full of kids. Blind spot monitoring systems enhances the awareness of nearby vehicles—especially helpful during lane changes.
- **Hands Free Voice Music Streaming:** Many of us love a good song playing on the radio or our favorite podcast helping us to pass the time while driving. Some vehicles come with a hands-free voice music streaming feature that allows one's voice to change the channels rather than having to look down at the radio tuning buttons.
- **Multimedia Distribution Rear Seat Entertainment:** Multimedia distribution rear seat entertainment systems are designed to provide passengers with a range of media consumption options and connectivity. These systems enhance passenger comfort and manage distractions, especially for longer journeys. The goal is to provide a smooth, engaging experience that minimizes passenger restlessness and allows the driver to maintain focus on the road. And, we all know that a driver that is not distracted is a much safer one on our roadways.
- **Tire Pressure Monitoring System:** Knowing your vehicle's tire pressure is important to assure that you are not driving on dangerously low tires. Automotive tire pressure monitoring systems are designed to monitor tire pressure and temperature in real-time, alerting drivers before issues escalate. Low tire pressure can lead to an increased chance of blowouts, poor handling, reduced fuel efficiency and uneven tire wear.
- **Side Impact Airbags:** While airbags in the front positions come out far too quickly and forceful for young children (less than 13 years of age) to be by them, rear, side-impact airbags are extremely helpful in protecting children in rear seating positions. We are often asked about their safety and children being placed near them, but be assured that these devices were designed with children in mind and this is a great added safety feature. However, nobody should lean up against a window with a side airbag as this would be dangerous if that airbag is deployed.



As vehicle technology advances and becomes more standard on cars, we look forward to the reduction in traffic injuries and deaths that these features are anticipated to bring about for all roadway users.