

## **Staying Alive**

### **Overview of 2006 NHRA Safety Rules**

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As more and more drag strips around the country open their arms to import vehicle, you may be tempted to dust off your old racecar or head out to the strip for the first time. Even if you aren't a fan of drag racing, the drag strip has proven to be one of the best tuning tools available. If your vehicle is stock or lightly tuned, very little additional safety equipment is required. In most cases, a helmet is all you will need. As your car is tuned to go quicker and faster, the drag strip where you race will begin to require more and more safety equipment. To help you plan out your safety equipment purchases, we've put together this overview of the 2006 NHRA safety rules.

### **ALL RACERS**

**General Clothing** – All drivers are required to wear full-length pants to the ankle, shoes, and socks. Shorts, bare legs, tank tops, bare torsos, nylon or nylon-type clothing, and open-toe shoes are prohibited when driving in any class.

**Seat belts** – All cars not required by class requirements to use SFI 16.1 spec driver-restraint systems must be equipped with an accepted quick-release-type driver seat belt.

**Driver License** – All drivers running must have a valid state or government issued driver's license.

**Fire extinguisher system** – Minimum 5 pounds, NHRA-accepted fire extinguishing system mandatory for all Pro Heads-Up Racers.

**Battery master cutoff** – Mandatory when battery is relocated from factory position.

**Wheelstuds** – Thread engagement on all wheelstuds to the lugnut must be equivalent to or greater than the diameter of the stud.

**Taillights** – All vehicles must have a minimum of one working taillight for night operations.

**Liquid overflow** – All vehicles in competition with any type of water overflow capable of spilling water must have a catch can to accumulate the excess liquids and prevent leaking onto the track. Minimum catch can capacity: one pint. Catch can must be securely fastened.

**Pressurized Bottles** – All pressurized bottles (i.e., air, nitrous oxide, CO<sub>2</sub>, Etc.) must meet and be engraved as meeting DOT-1800-pound minimum spec. All bottles must be securely mounted (hose clamps and/or tie wraps prohibited). Bottles mounted within the driver compartment must have "blow-down" tube vented to outside of vehicle.

## **RUNNING 13.99 to 12.00**

**Helmets** – Drivers of all cars running 13.99 or quicker must use a helmet meeting Snell 95, K98, 2000, 2005 or SFI 31.1, 31.2, 31.1A, 31.2A, 31.1/2005, 41.1, 41.2, 41.1A, 41.2A, or 41.1/2005

Drivers of cars running faster than 7.49 or quicker must use a helmet meeting Snell SA95, SA2000, SA2005 or SFI 31.1, 31.2, 31.1A, 31.2A, or 31.1/2005 Specs.

**Driveline** – All RWD cars running 13.99 or quicker on slicks must have a driveshaft loop.

## **RUNNING 11.99 to 11.50**

**Clutch** – Clutch in cars running 11.99 quicker must meet SFI 1.1, 1.2, 1.4 specs.

**Flywheel shield** – All cars using a clutch and running quicker than 11.99 or faster than 135mph must be equipped with a flywheel shield made of 1/4inch minimum thickness steel plate. In lieu of shield, a blanket meeting SFI 4.1 spec, completely surrounding the bellhousing, is permitted

**Flywheel** – Stock-type cast iron flywheels and/or pressure plats are prohibited in any car running 11.99 or quicker. Units that meet SFI 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 or 1.4 specs are mandatory in all cars running 11.99 or quicker.

**Tires** – Metal, screw-in valve stems mandatory in tubeless tires, front and rear, on cars running 11.99 or quicker.

## **RUNNING 11.49 to 11.00**

**Driveline** – All RWD cars running 11.49 or quicker on street tires must have a driveshaft loop.

**Driver restraint systems** – A quick release, 3 inch shoulder harness meeting SFI 16.1 spec is mandatory in all cars in competition required by the rules to have a roll bar or roll cage.

**Roll Bars** – 5-point NHRA-legal roll bar is mandatory in any car running 11.49 or quicker.

**Head protector** – In any car where a roll bar or roll cage installed, a padded head protector must be provided at the back of the drivers head and construction in an attempt to prevent whiplash upon impact.

**Protective clothing** – Jacket meeting SFI 3.2A/1 spec mandatory

## **RUNNING 10.99 to 10.00**

**Roll Cage/Roll Bar** – NHRA legal roll bar is mandatory in all cars without a factory firewall. Roll bar is permitted in vehicles with factory firewall.

**Head protector** – In any car where a roll bar or roll cage installed, a padded head protector must be provided at the back of the drivers head and construction in an attempt to prevent whiplash upon impact.

**Window net** – A SFI 27.1 spec, mesh-type window net is mandatory on any car required by the rules to have a roll cage.

**Transmission, automatic** – All vehicles running an automatic transmission must be equipped with a transmission shield meeting SFI 4.1 spec.

**Harmonic Balancer** –harmonic balancer meeting SFI 18.1 spec mandatory.

**Aftermarket Axles / Axle Retention Device** – All RWD cars must be equipped with aftermarket axles and a satisfactory means of drive axle retention: minimum .120 inch aluminum or .090 inch steel bearing retainer mandatory on RWD cars.

## **RUNNING 9.99 to 7.50**

**Neck Collar** – Mandatory on driver of any car running 9.99 or quicker or 135mph or faster.

**Roll Cage** – NHRA certified roll cage mandatory in all cars.

**Window net** – A SFI 27.1 spec, mesh-type window net is mandatory on any car required by the rules to have a roll cage.

**Transmission, automatic** –All vehicles running an automatic transmission must be equipped with a flexplate meeting SFI 29.1 spec and covered by a flexplate shield meeting SFI 30.1 spec.

**NHRA license/credentials** –All must have a NHRA 3B or 4B license.

**Protective clothing** –

With OEM or steel firewall: jacket and pants meeting SFI 3.2A/5 spec and gloves meeting SFI 3.3/1 spec mandatory.

Without an OEM or steel firewall, with nitrous oxide, supercharged, or turbocharged, or any car with an automatic transmission in the driver's compartment: Jacket and pants meeting SFI 3.2A/15 spec, gloves and shoes or boots meeting SFI 3.3/5 spec mandatory.

Any car using methanol or ethanol as fuel: jacket and pants meeting SFI 3.2A/5 spec, gloves and boots or shoes meeting SFI 3.3/1 spec mandatory.

**NHRA Chassis Certification**– All cars must have a serialized chassis sticker affixed to the frame before participating in any NHRA event.

**Supercharger restraint system** – Supercharged vehicles using a roots-type supercharger must use restraint meeting SFI 14.1. Restraint system must be replaced every two years from date of manufacturer.

**Battery master cutoff** – Mandatory.

**Parachute** – Mandatory on all cars.

**RUNNING 7.49 and quicker**

**Chassis** –Vehicles must have chassis meeting SFI 25.1D spec