



SUMMER DRIVING AND THE HAY FEVER HAZARD

insurethebox warns young motorists to read the side effects of their hay fever remedies before hitting the road

www.insurethebox.com

London, 14 May 2018 – It's mid-May and the pollen count is soaring. insurethebox, the global pioneer of telematics-based car insurance, warns drivers to check their hay fever medication before getting behind the wheel. With 1 in 5 people in the UK suffering from hay fever¹, many will be reaching for tablets and nasal sprays to keep the symptoms at bay – but some remedies could render them unfit to drive.

95% of hay fever sufferers are allergic to grass pollen², and sneezing while driving at high speeds is a serious distraction hay fever sufferers know only too well. While keeping tissues in the car and keeping the windows shut might help, most sufferers also rely on medication to tackle the symptoms – and that's where the trouble can start.

“Drivers using hay fever medication could experience side-effects that impair their ability to drive safely,” explains Simon Rewell, Road Safety Manager at insurethebox. “Young or new drivers may not realise that the side-effects of over-the-counter medications often include drowsiness, dizziness or nausea. Crucially all drugs, whether prescribed, over the counter or illegal, are covered by the same laws, so driving under the influence carries the risk of a fine or ban. Motorists should take non-drowsy versions of any hay fever remedies and check the literature that comes with the drugs before getting behind the wheel.”

¹ <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/pollen-forecast/#?tab=map&map=Pollen&fcTime=1525863600&zoom=5&lon=-4.00&lat=55.71>

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Summer Driving Tips from insurethebox

- Check the pollen count for the day before you set out.
- If you are sneezing a lot, pull over until it's passed.
- Check the literature that comes with the drugs before getting behind the wheel – look out for side-effects including drowsiness, blurred vision, nausea etc.
- If you are going to drive, take the non-drowsy versions of any hay fever remedies.
- If you have taken medication, consider alternative transport and leave the car at home that day.
- Remember that over the counter drugs are covered by the same laws as illegal drugs when it comes to driving. Don't take the risk.

ENDS

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Notes to Editors

Insure The Box

Insure The Box Limited launched in June 2010 with its first product; insurethebox, and is the UK's largest telematics (or black box) insurance provider, now holding over 3 billion miles of driving data and associated claims. As well as insurethebox and drive like a girl (another Insure The Box brand) it also administers other telematics offerings. Aioi Nissay Dowa Insurance Company of Europe Limited (ANDIE), subsidiary of Aioi Nissay Dowa Insurance Company Limited and part of the major Japanese insurance group MS&AD Holdings, Inc., acquired the majority stake in Box Innovation Group Limited (which is the 100% owner of Insure The Box) in March 2015. Together they are taking a leading role in the development of technologies that will change the face of motor insurance and the way we view the car.