



# Safety Advisor



The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), in partnership with the Federal Highway Administration, the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV), and representatives from all segments of Florida's traffic safety community, developed the Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP). Florida's SHSP is a statewide, data-driven plan that addresses the "4 E's" of highway safety:

- Engineering
- Education
- Enforcement
- Emergency Response

Florida has one of the largest transportation systems in the U.S. with over 120,000 miles of roadway used by more than sixteen million licensed drivers.

Ensuring our system is safe for all roadway users is a top priority. It takes all highway safety partners, working together, to achieve the goal of safer roads. "Towards Zero Deaths" (TZD) is a data-driven effort focusing on identifying and creating opportunities to change America's highway safety culture. Florida joins dozens of other states and many national organizations in supporting the national TZD effort. Distracted Driving was added as an emphasis area in the 2012 update to the SHSP. Distracted driving has become a pressing concern for traffic safety professionals and the general public.

2013 has been a banner year for Florida's highway safety partners. Governor Rick Scott and the Florida Legislature approved a new law banning the use of wireless communications devices while driving, effective October 1, 2013.

The bill prohibits text messaging, emailing and instant messaging, while driving.

■ Sending or receiving a text takes a driver's eyes from the

road for an average of 4.6 seconds, the equivalent-at 55 mph-of driving the length of an entire football field, blind.

■ At least 85 deadly crashes in 2010 and 2011 in the Sunshine State were caused by drivers who were distracted by things inside their vehicles, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.



## OCTOBER 2013

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## **FAST FACTS ABOUT FIRES**

### **Home Fires**

- In 2011, U.S. fire departments responded to 370,000 home structure fires. These fires caused 13,910 civilian injuries, 2,520 civilian deaths, \$6.9 billion in direct damage.
- On average, seven people die in U.S. home fires per day.
- Cooking is the leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries, followed by heating equipment. Smoking is a leading cause of civilian home fire deaths.
- Most fatal fires kill one or two people. In 2011, 12 home fires killed five or more people resulting in a total of 67 deaths.

### **Cooking**

- U.S. Fire Departments responded to an estimated annual average of 156,600 cooking-related fires between 2007-2011, resulting in 400 civilian deaths, 5,080 civilian injuries and \$853 million in direct damage.
- Two of every five home fires start in the kitchen.
- Unattended cooking was a factor in 34% of reported home cooking fires.
- Ranges accounted for the 58% of home cooking fire incidents. Ovens accounted for 16%.
- Children under five face a higher risk of non-fire burns associated with cooking than being burned in a cooking fire.
- Microwave ovens are one of the leading home products associated with scald burn injuries not related to fires. Nearly half (44%) of the microwave oven injuries seen at emergency rooms in 2011 were scald burns.
- Clothing was the item first ignited in less than 1% of home cooking fires, but these incidents accounted for 16% of the cooking fire deaths.
- Two-thirds of home cooking fires started with ignition of food or other cooking materials.

### **Heating**

- The leading factor contributing to heating equipment fires was failure to clean, principally creosote from solid fueled heating equipment, primarily chimneys.
- Portable or fixed space heaters, including wood stoves, were involved in one-third (32%) of home heating fires and four out of five (80%) home heating deaths.
- Half of home heating fire deaths resulted from fires caused by heating equipment too close to things that can burn, such as upholstered furniture, clothing, mattresses or bedding.
- In most years, heating is the second leading cause of home fires, fire deaths, and fire injuries. Fixed or portable space heaters are involved in about 4 out of 5 heating fire deaths.

### Smoking Materials

- During 2007-2011, smoking materials caused an estimated 17,900 home structure fires, resulting in 580 deaths, 1,280 injuries and \$509 million in direct property damage, per year.
- Sleep was a factor in one-third of the home smoking material fire deaths.
- In recent years, Canada and the United States have required that all cigarettes sold must be "fire safe," that is have reduced ignition strength and less likely to start fires.

### Electrical

- About half (49%) of home electrical fires involved electrical distribution or lighting equipment. Other leading types of equipment were washer or dryer, fan, portable or stationary space heater, air conditioning equipment, water heater, and range.
- Electrical failure or malfunctions caused an average of almost 50,000 home fires per year, resulting in roughly 450 deaths and \$1.5 billion in direct property damage.

### Candles

- During 2007-2011, candles caused 3% of home fires, 4% of home fire deaths, 7% of home fire injuries and 6% of direct property damage from home fires.
- On average, there are 32 home candle fires reported per day.
- Roughly one-third of these fires started in the bedroom; however, the candle industry found that only 13% of candle users burn candles in the bedroom most often.
- More than half of all candle fires start when things that can burn are too close to the candle.

### Escape Planning

- According to an NFPA survey, only one-third of Americans have both developed and practiced a home fire escape plan.
- Almost three-quarters of Americans do have an escape plan; however, more than half never practiced it.
- One-third of American households who made an time estimate for evacuation thought they would have at least 6 minutes before a fire in their home would become life threatening. The time available is often less. However only 8% said their first thought on hearing a smoke alarm would be to get out!

### Smoke Alarms

- Almost two-thirds (62%) of reported home fire deaths resulted from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.
- Working smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in reported home fires in half.
- In fires considered large enough to activate the smoke alarm, hardwired alarms operated 92% of the time, while battery powered alarms operated only 77% of the time.

<http://www.nfpa.org/safety-information>

# TIPS FOR DRIVE TO WORK SAFELY WEEK, Oct. 7-11

## **BE AN ACTIVE DRIVER**

### **Minimizing distractions**

Resist activities unrelated to driving that take your eyes or mind off of the road and your hands off the wheel.

### **Being alert and clear-headed**

Never drive impaired by alcohol, over-the-counter or prescription medication and be well-rested prior to getting behind the wheel.

### **Frequently scanning your mirrors**

Many fleet safety programs recommend a “full mirror sweep” every 5-6 seconds. If a vehicle suddenly appears in one of your mirrors without you noticing its approach, you’ll know you are not shifting your eyes frequently enough.

### **Maintaining a proper following distance**

On clear, dry roads, your following distance should be 3-4 seconds — double or triple if roads are wet or slippery, keeping in mind that in some cases it’s best to stay off the roads until conditions improve.



### **Scanning ahead**

Looking down the road ahead of you for a distance of 10 seconds. In the city, that’s about one block and, on the highway, it’s about 1/3 of a mile or 4 city blocks.

### **Watching your speed**

The faster you are driving, the less time you have to react to sudden moves by other drivers and the less time other drivers have to react to you. Always observe the speed limit and slow down to accommodate traffic, road, and other conditions.

### **Taking time to recharge**

If driving a long distance, it is recommended you take a break every two hours or 100 miles, even if you don’t feel you need one. If after two hours of steady driving you don’t feel you need a break, this may be a strong sign that you are not actively engaged in your driving.

<http://trafficsafety.org/dsww2013/materials>

## **Eye Injury Prevention Month**

October is Eye Injury Prevention Month. Nearly 2.5 million people suffer eye injuries each year in the United States, and nearly one million people have lost some degree of vision as a result. Most could have been prevented with protective eyewear. These are some of the most common places that eye injuries happen and prevention tips for both indoor and outdoor activities:

- **In the house** – When using household chemicals, read the instructions and labels carefully, work in a well-ventilated area and make sure to point spray nozzles away from you. Many chemicals are extremely hazardous and can permanently destroy the surface of your eyes, resulting in blindness. For this reason, it is very important to use appropriate eye protection to prevent blinding consequences from chemical splashes.



- **In the workshop** – Think about the work you will be doing and wear protective eyewear to shield your eyes from flying fragments, fumes, dust particles, sparks and splashing chemicals. Many objects can fly into your eyes unexpectedly and cause injury.



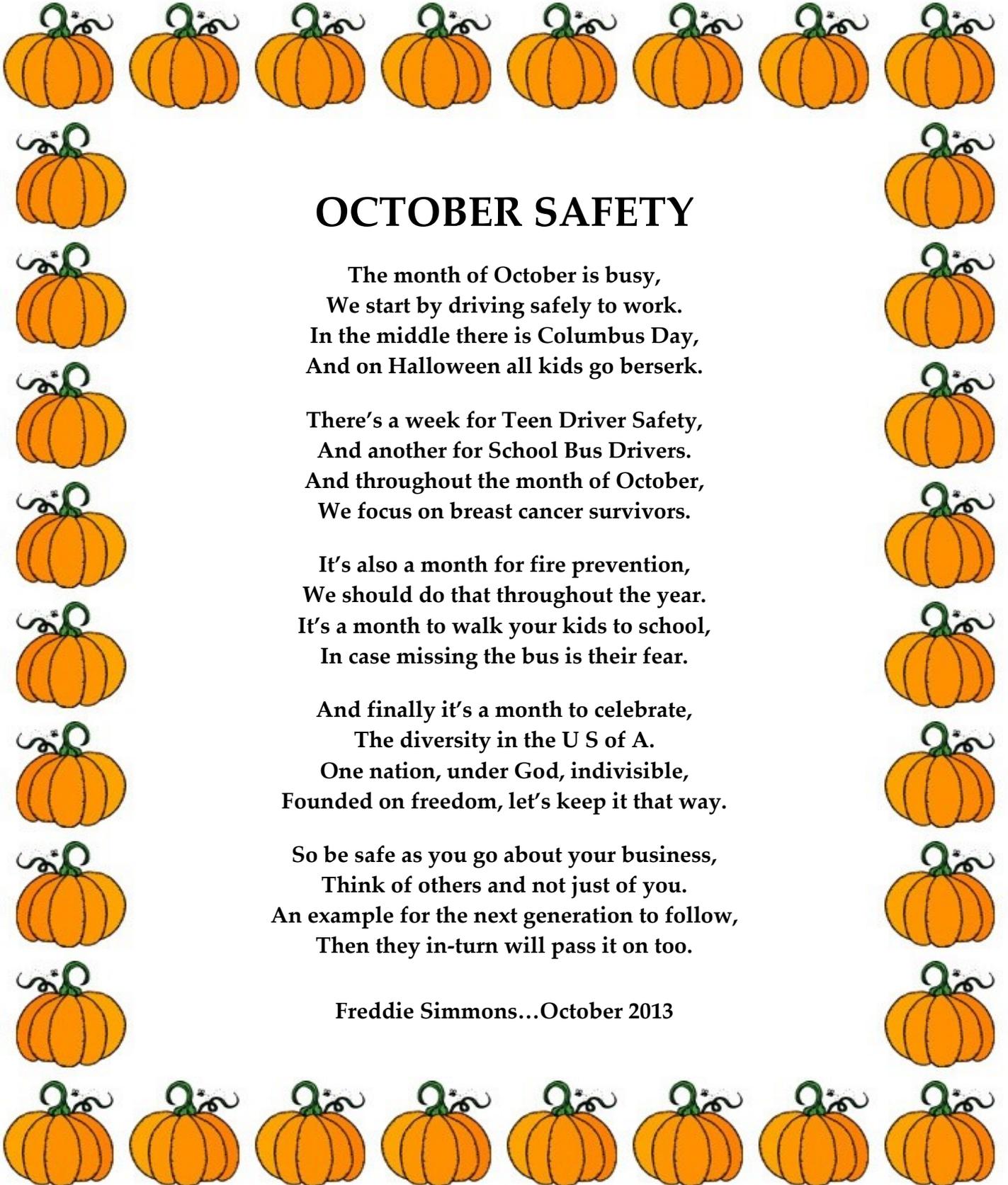
- **In the garden** – Put on protective eyewear before you use a lawnmower, power trimmer or edger and be sure to check for rocks and stones because they can become dangerous projectiles as they shoot from these machines.

- **In the garage** – Battery acid sparks and debris from damaged or improperly jump-started auto batteries can severely damage your eyes. Learn the proper way to jump-start an automobile, and keep protective goggles in the trunk of your car to use for those emergencies and everyday repairs.



In an effort to combat household eye injuries, the American Academy of Ophthalmology recommends that every household have at least one pair of ANSI-approved protective eyewear to be worn when doing projects and activities at home to safeguard against eye injuries.

<http://www.eyephy.com/>



## OCTOBER SAFETY

The month of October is busy,  
We start by driving safely to work.  
In the middle there is Columbus Day,  
And on Halloween all kids go berserk.

There's a week for Teen Driver Safety,  
And another for School Bus Drivers.  
And throughout the month of October,  
We focus on breast cancer survivors.

It's also a month for fire prevention,  
We should do that throughout the year.  
It's a month to walk your kids to school,  
In case missing the bus is their fear.

And finally it's a month to celebrate,  
The diversity in the U S of A.  
One nation, under God, indivisible,  
Founded on freedom, let's keep it that way.

So be safe as you go about your business,  
Think of others and not just of you.  
An example for the next generation to follow,  
Then they in-turn will pass it on too.

Freddie Simmons...October 2013

# Word Search Puzzle

E N V T Y S T A G N G G P J A K V X G Y  
 D T S I O E C E P N W E N X W T N X N A  
 U V J N E U R H I P R O Y I P S E Y I D  
 C S P N O J R R O S L A D R K M E K T S  
 A A S C O I E M I O G E Q T E O E Y X U  
 T F X V J E T M A P L E S R I P O Y E B  
 I E R D N P M C S L R B G N A T P C T M  
 O T O I E O K C A Z I E U C G P U Q O U  
 N Y G N N L A Q N R N N S S M R K P N L  
 Z N A S R N X E I C T E E L H E R I F O  
 E S G X N I E O Y A B S V E X V F E I C  
 L F Q I V W K R B G M G I O X E J A R Z  
 R H N C O S E H S A R C M D G N S N E G  
 Z G N L K S R E H S I U G N I T X E B I  
 W N L O P S E I T I L A T A F I M V O T  
 P A E O D I V E R S I T Y J O O C D T J  
 H E N F O R C E M E N T E Y Z N C L C C  
 A S R V Q A L A R M S L P V V S M G O Q  
 E G F E L F J X Z S Q D O G Q S L F E B  
 Q X K O V Q M N O D K U Q C B R A F L S

ALARMS  
 APPLES  
 COLUMBUS DAY  
 COOKING  
 CRASHES  
 DISTRACTIONS  
 DIVERSITY  
 EDUCATION  
 EMERGENCY RESPONSE

ENFORCEMENT  
 ENGINEERING  
 ESCAPE  
 EXTINGUISHER  
 EYES  
 FATALITIES  
 FIRE  
 HALLOWEEN  
 NO TEXTING

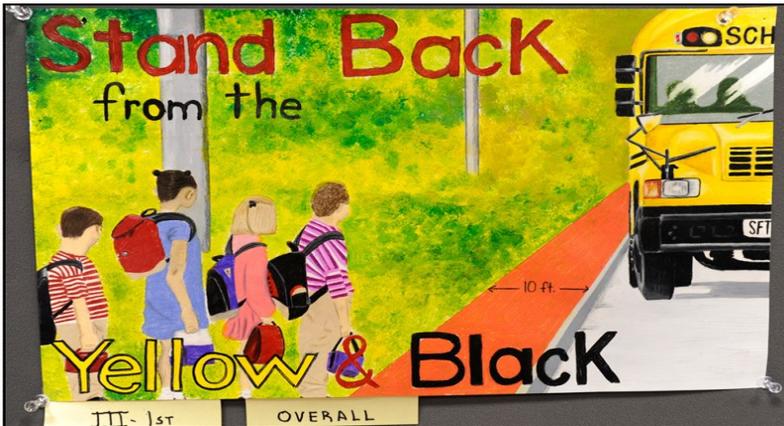
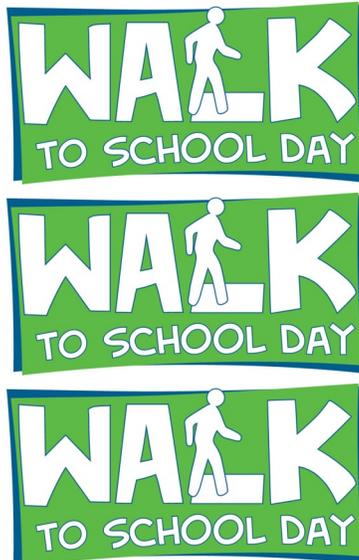
OCTOBER  
 PERSIMMONS  
 PREVENTION  
 PUT IT DOWN  
 SAFETY  
 SCANNING  
 SCHOOL BUS  
 TEENS  
 TOURMALINE

**The Safety Advisor puzzle is generated from the  
<http://school.discoveryeducation.com/>, puzzle maker.  
 Omissions or errors are possible and are the sole responsibility of the program  
 and not the producers of this Newsletter.**

# SAFETY SLOGAN

**“SAFETY IS A STATE OF MIND — ACCIDENTS ARE AN ABSENCE OF MIND.”**

**~Author Unknown**



### TRENDS IN TEEN DRIVER SAFETY

#### PASSENGERS GET SAFER

Risky behaviors of teen passengers (ages 15 - 19) are on the decline. In 2011 compared to 2008:

<b>DOWN 10%</b> 46% not always wearing a seat belt	<b>DOWN 23%</b> 50% of those killed in teen driver crashes were not buckled up	<b>DOWN 14%</b> 24% recently rode with teen driver who had been drinking
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#### MORE LIVES SAVED

Fewer deaths in crashes involving teen drivers in 2011 compared to 2008:

<b>28%</b> decrease in deaths	<b>30%</b> less teen passenger deaths	<b>1,208</b> fewer people died
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#### THE FLIP SIDE OF SAFETY

Risky behaviors of teen drivers (ages 15 - 19) in 2011:

<b>58%</b> of drivers killed in crashes were not wearing a seat belt	<b>52%</b> of drivers killed in crashes were speeding	<b>33%</b> of teens recently texted or emailed while driving	<b>8%</b> of teens recently drove a car after drinking <small>(41% killed in crashes had blood alcohol level <math>\geq 0.01</math>)</small>
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Source: Miles to go: Focusing on Risks for Teen Driver Crashes, a research report from The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia Research Institute and State Farm®. www.teendriversource.org

This monthly newsletter is produced by the State Safety Office by Mark Eacker, Safety Program Administrator. For content information, please call or email the editor, Mark Eacker, at: 850-414-4176 / mark.eacker@dot.state.fl.us  
Our internet address is: www.dot.state.fl.us/safety  
Our intranet address is: Infonet.dot.state.fl.us/safetyoffice/



**Safety Advisor Customer Satisfaction Survey**

**We are interested in your opinion. In order to better serve your needs, please take a moment to fill out this brief questionnaire. Send to:**

**Local Fax: 850 414-4221**

**Via US Postal Service (or inter-office mail) to the address shown below.**

**Attention: Industrial Safety  
Florida Department of Transportation  
605 Suwannee Street, MS 53  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0450**

Survey Questions	Yes	No
Are the Safety Advisor topics relevant to your day to day job?		
Do you use the Safety Advisor in any manner other than read it ?		

What would you suggest to improve the suitability of the Safety Advisor to your needs or to improve the overall quality? (Please be specific)

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Do you have any questions regarding Industrial Safety programs and/or operations? Please feel free to include your questions or comments. The first three people to submit a safety slogan by email to me will receive protective eyewear.

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**Safety Slogan of the Month Entry Form**

**You are encouraged to submit safety slogans at any time.**

**Slogans are judged on originality .**

**You may also email your slogans to [mark.eacker@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:mark.eacker@dot.state.fl.us)  
In the subject line of your email please write "Safety Slogan Entry".**

Please Print  
Safety Slogan

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Location/Office: \_\_\_\_\_  
District: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	1 	2	3	4  PAY DAY	5
6	7	8	9 	10	11	12
13	14 	15	16	17	18 PAY DAY	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31 	1	2

### THE MONTH OF OCTOBER

October 2013	Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Domestic Violence Awareness, National Apple Month, National Physical Therapy Month, Eye Safety & Injury Prevention Month
Birthstone	Opal and Tourmaline
Fruit & Vegetables for October	Pears, Apples, Persimmons, Ginger, Galangal, Tumeric
October Flower	Calendula
Astrological Signs	Libra (till 22th) & Scorpio (23rd →)
Other Notable October Dates & Events	Oct. 4 National Poetry Day and National Diversity Day