

Smart, Safe & Sober



NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2010

www.smartsafeandsober.org



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Smart, Safe & Sober

NEWSLETTER

The *Smart, Safe & Sober Newsletter* (formerly known as *Badges, Buckles, Belts & Beyond*) is published quarterly for Virginia's transportation safety community by the Smart, Safe & Sober Partnership.

The Smart, Safe & Sober Partnership is comprised of the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police, the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles, the Virginia State Police, the Virginia Sheriffs' Association, and DRIVE SMART Virginia.

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Articles, announcements of events, short recaps of agency activities with photos, etc. are all accepted on a regular basis for publication in the next scheduled issue.

PREVIOUS ISSUES

Back issues of the newsletter can be found at www.smartsafeandsober.org/news. Click on "SS&S Newsletter" on the left.

ADDRESS CORRECTIONS

Contact Erin Schrad, VACP Communications Manager (see above) with any address corrections or mailing list changes.

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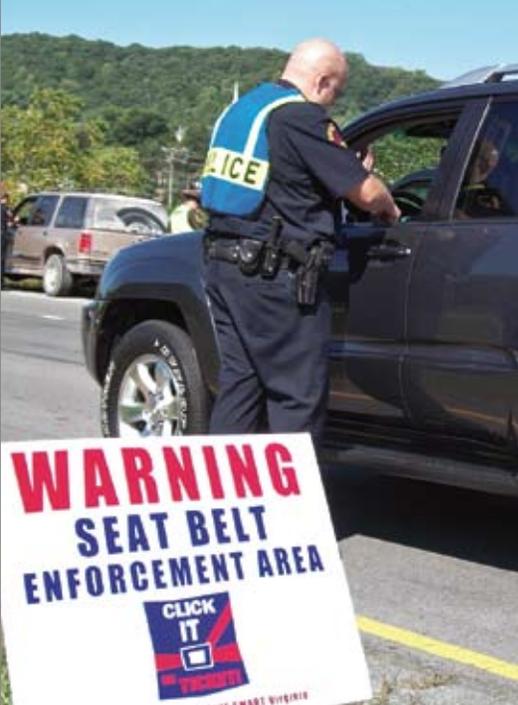
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November 'Click It or Ticket' Mobilization Results

by **Mary Ann Rayment, Statewide Occupant Protection Coordinator**
 DMV: Virginia Highway Safety Office

Thanks to all of you who participated in the November "Click It or Ticket" Mini-Mobilization! Once again, you all did an outstanding job. The observers are out now getting surveys of seat belt use throughout the state, so we will know the effect soon.

In the meantime, let me share with you what you all did during this very busy week in which more than 133,000 regular hours and more than 3,400 overtime hours were worked. You wrote up:

- 1,203 seat belt summonses;
- 269 child safety seat citations;
- 9,293 speeding citations;

- 2,097 reckless driving summonses;
- 35 open container citations;
- 924 suspended/revoked drivers;
- 143 uninsured motorists;
- 1,154 drivers for no operator's license;
- 91 juveniles for underage drinking violations.

In addition, you arrested:

- 506 DUI/DUID's;
- 15 juveniles under the Zero Tolerance law;
- 629 felons;
- 129 fugitives; and,
- 222 drug violators.

On top of that, you recovered 47 stolen vehicles and seized 31 weapons! To date, you all have reported issuing almost 28,000 total summonses in a week!

It has made an impact as well. As of

November 30, 2009, preliminary data shows that we are getting very close to our goal of 100 fewer fatalities. In this preliminary data, there have been 669 fatalities in Virginia, which is 98 fatalities lower than the same time last year. Of those, 299 were not wearing a restraint — still too many.

As we come to the end of the year, we can see the goal: 100 fewer fatalities than in 2008!

Please let me take the time, on behalf of myself and the entire Virginia Highway Safety Office to thank you all so very much for your commitment, dedication and passion to one thing: saving lives on the roadways of Virginia. We are indeed fortunate that you all hit the roads every day with that goal in mind.

2010 Smart, Safe & Sober Calendars Are Available!



Everyone in receipt of this newsletter also should have received a 2010 Smart, Safe & Sober Calendar in December. If you need additional copies of the calendar, they are available for free by contacting your local Highway Safety Office CTSP Manager or Law Enforcement Liaison, or VACP Communications Manager Erin Schrad at erin@vachiefs.org or (804) 285-8227. Please indicate quantity desired and a mailing address and contact name.

U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood Announces Intensive Holiday Impaired Driving Crackdown

New data show states with best, worst improvement in drunk driving fatality rates

(December 7, 2009) U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood and R. Gil Kerlikowske, Director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, today kicked off the "Over the Limit. Under Arrest" national drunk and impaired driving crackdown involving thousands of law enforcement agencies during the holiday season. In addition, Secretary LaHood announced new data showing states with the best – and worst – improvement over the last year in addressing drunk driving behavior.

"Drunk driving is a major public safety threat that still claims thousands of lives every year," Secretary LaHood said. "Many states continue to step up their efforts to get drunk drivers off our roads, but the numbers tell us we have to do more. Drinking and driving is dangerous and unacceptable, and I'm asking law enforcement to stay vigilant during this busy holiday season."

"Like alcohol, drugs impair perception, judgment, motor skills and memory. These effects can be dangerously magnified when drugs are consumed with alcohol, even in cases where a driver's blood alcohol level is below legal limits," said Director Kerlikowske. "Driving while impaired, from alcohol, drugs, or both, puts us all at risk and must be prevented."

According to research by DOT's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), five states have shown great reductions in alcohol-impaired driving fatality rates from 2007 to 2008. Those include Vermont, Wisconsin, Maine, Nebraska and Minnesota. The states with the least progress are Idaho, Rhode Island, Wyoming, Kansas and New Hampshire. Driving with a blood alcohol level of .08 or higher is illegal in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

"My message to drivers is this: if you decide to drink, find a safe and sober ride home or your chances of arrest are extremely high," said Secretary LaHood. "Law enforcement officers will be out in full force during the upcoming holiday, especially at night and on the weekends, looking for the drunk drivers that put the rest of us at risk."

Prior NHTSA research has consistently shown that more people are killed in crashes that involve an alcohol-impaired driver on the weekends and at night – when most of the holidays occur this calendar year. In 2008 alone, 58 percent of drivers and motorcycle riders were killed in crashes that took place over the weekend and at night were alcohol-impaired.

This holiday enforcement crackdown is being supported by more than \$7 million in national TV and radio advertising and runs from December 16 to January 3.

To view the state-by-state report, go to

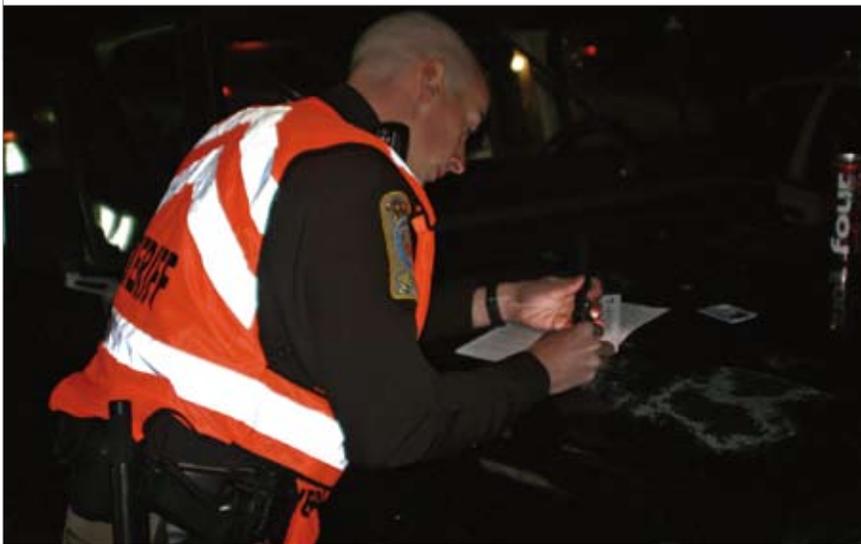
<http://www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/Pubs/811250.pdf>.

To learn more about the "Drunk Driving. Over the Limit. Under Arrest" campaign, go to <http://stopimpaireddriving.org>.



Officers from the Fairfax County Police Department, Virginia State Police, and several other agencies participated in the National Crackdown kickoff event.

More Than 20 Agencies Kick Off Holiday ‘Checkpoint Strikeforce’ Campaign with Coordinated Enforcement Event



On November 20, 2009, the Blue Ridge Transportation Safety Board coordinated with state and local law enforcement agencies to kick off the “Checkpoint Strikeforce” campaign for the holiday season. To bring focused attention and enforcement on impaired driving during the winter holidays, more than twenty law enforcement agencies conducted license and sobriety checkpoints in southwest Virginia on that date. Additionally, many agencies also conducted increased saturation patrols.

The Wythe County Sheriff’s Office wrote a total of 29 citations during their checkpoint:

- equipment violations – 5
- child safety seat violations – 1
- seat belt violations – 3
- no Operator’s License – 2
- suspended Operator’s License – 1
- expired inspection – 7
- expired registration – 3
- no insurance – 1
- other traffic violations – 6.

The Martinsville Police Department checked 132 vehicles at two locations and 23 summonses were issued. Additionally, two criminal charges were assessed — one for possession of marijuana and one for curse and abuse.

Through these enforcement efforts and earned media coverage, area motorists were reminded that impaired driving is one of the most serious, but preventable, dangers we face on the roadway during the Winter Holidays. Agencies reiterated the importance of having a designated driver and stressed that motorists should never drive after consuming alcohol. They also reminded them to always wear their seat belt as they are the best protection to lessen injuries and prevent deaths if involved in a crash.



CHECKPOINT STRIKEFORCE

**Drunk Driving.
Over the limit. Under Arrest.**

The following agencies and others participated in the November 20 coordinated enforcement event: Wythe County Sheriff (pictured top), Martinsville Police (pictured middle), Montgomery County Sheriff, Franklin County Sheriff, Roanoke City Police, Roanoke County Police, Christiansburg Police, Salem Police, Bedford County Sheriff (pictured bottom), Campbell County Sheriff, Lynchburg Police, Bedford City Police, Amherst County Sheriff, Amherst Town Police, and Virginia State Police.

Are you ready for the Challenge?

Another year has come to a close... it's time to start preparing your 2009 Virginia Law Enforcement Challenge entry! Applications are due April 15, 2010.

To help get you started, the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police and the Virginia Highway Safety Office are once again offering a series of **workshops to help rookies and veterans alike prepare their application** for the 2009 Virginia and National Law Enforcement Challenge Awards. Eleven workshops are being held across the state in January and February, 2010 to provide those interested with information about the Challenge program and guidance on how to put together a winning application. The workshops are free to attend and have been approved for 4 hours of in-service credit with DCJS. To register, fill out the form on the next page and fax it in or email your registration information to the appropriate Law Enforcement Liaison. Pre-registration is not required to attend, but is preferred so that enough materials are available and a sufficient size training room has been reserved.

These workshops are an excellent resource for those looking to enter for the first time and want to learn what the program is all about; but even if you are not new to the Challenge, the workshops are still very helpful. Every year, there are a number of little changes to the program or the judging process that are important to know about in order for you to put together a high-scoring entry for your agency.

Additionally, for those that entered the 2008 Challenge, these workshops will provide you with an opportunity to go over last year's application and score sheet with one of the Law Enforcement Liaisons so you can improve in 2009.

So, now you have no excuse as to why you can't enter the Law Enforcement Challenge, right?!

"The Law Enforcement Challenge isn't for ME! Or, is it!?"

It's true that the majority of participants in the Law Enforcement Challenge are municipal police departments and county sheriff's offices, but what you may not know is that there are categories for almost any organization involved in traffic safety. For example, the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police is not an enforcement agency, but in the National Challenge, there is a category for State Associations who are heavily involved in educating about and promoting traffic safety efforts. (And the VACP wins first place every year!)

In the Virginia and National Law Enforcement Challenges, there are categories for all kinds of agencies, including:

- **College/University Police**
- **Private Police** (e.g. Wintergreen, Kingsmill, Lake Monticello, Massanutten, BWX, Carillon Clinic Police Department, railroad police, etc.)
- **Special Enforcement Agencies** (e.g. Airport Police, Capitol Police, DMV Enforcement Section, DGIF Conservation Police, ABC Enforcement Division, etc.)
- **Military Police**
- **Federal Agencies**
- **Multi-Jurisdictional Agencies/Taskforces** (This could be Crash Investigation Teams, multi-agency taskforces, or even a joint entry between a small town police department and their corresponding county sheriff's office — you can combine your enforcement data and activities to put together a stron-

ger entry than either agency could submit individually!)

Currently, these categories have little to no participation in the Virginia Challenge and, in the National Challenge, there are maybe no more than ten entries in the Private, Special Enforcement, and Multi-Jurisdictional Agency categories, so any entry in these categories has an excellent chance of winning in the state and nationally!

Additionally, fewer sheriff's offices participate in the Challenge than do police departments, so this is another area where even a first-time entry has an excellent chance of winning!

"It's too much work to put together an entry!"

Another excuse we often hear as to why an agency chooses not to participate in the Law Enforcement Challenge is that it's a lot of work to put together an entry. You may have seen some of the award-winning entries from the past and thought there was no way you could produce such an entry. Well... it is true that entering the Challenge involves more work than just filling out an application form, but if your agency receives grant funds from the Highway Safety Office, you are already doing all of the necessary record-keeping to get the data you need for your Challenge application. Besides, the Challenge application that you put together becomes a great way to showcase all of the grant-funded traffic safety activities you are participating in and can be used to help you apply for next year's grant funds! Plus, once you complete your first entry, much of the information can be reused the next year, such as the information in the Policies & Guidelines section, because it doesn't change.

And you shouldn't be discouraged by some of those big books you may have seen. Some entries are quite lengthy and, generally, the larger the agency, the larger the entry because they are often involved in more projects. But some of the highest-scoring entries we have received have been some of the shortest because an agency's efforts are judged in accordance with their size and type. A 35-page entry from a smaller agency that is concise and to the point and effectively addresses all points in the application can easily — *and has!* — outscore a 200-page entry from a larger agency. The 2008 Virginia Rookie of the Year was the Washington County Sheriff's Office and they submitted a very nice application that was one of the thinner ones in the pile. But they presented their information in an attractive format that was easy to read by the judges and told them everything they needed to know to give the agency high marks.

"I don't know what to do!"

If you can't attend one of the very informative workshops, all of the information an agency needs to prepare an entry can be found in the "How To" guide provided with the application on the Smart, Safe & Sober website at <http://www.smartsafeand-sober.org/programs/LEC>. Additionally, either Don Allen or Frank Kowaleski or Erin Schrad can assist you individually with your application by answering questions or reviewing your entry prior to submission. Their contact information can be found on the inside cover (page 2) of this newsletter.

Applications are available online now, so get crackin'!



The Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police and
the Virginia Highway Safety Office present
“How to Enter the Law Enforcement Challenge”



In 2009, 50 agencies competed in the 2008 Virginia Law Enforcement Challenge and 16 of those agencies moved on to take home awards in the National Law Enforcement Challenge, making Virginia a leader in the National competition. In 2010, our goal is to collect **60 entries for the 2009 Challenge** and once again have more agencies than any other state win National awards.

To achieve this goal, **11 Law Enforcement Challenge Workshops** are being offered for free across the state to help your department prepare for the upcoming competition. Attendees will learn about the 2009 Law Enforcement Challenge, its benefits, the application process, and any changes that have been made to the judging criteria for 2009.

Whether your agency is a regular participant in the Challenge or has never entered before, the instructors are prepared both to help the veterans improve their entries and to show the rookies how to put an application together for the first time. Remember, attending one of these informative workshops does not obligate your department to enter the 2009 competition — you may just decide to take the opportunity to learn what to do in 2010 to enter next time! (**NOTE: 4 hours DCJS in-service has been approved for this course.**)

Register today for the workshop of your choice by sending an email with your department name, the name(s) of those attending, and the date and location of the workshop you choose.

<u>EASTERN REGION WORKSHOPS:</u> To register, contact Frank Kowaleski at (757) 508-8227 or Frank.Kowaleski@dmv.virginia.gov	<u>WESTERN REGION WORKSHOPS:</u> To register, contact Don Allen at (540) 599-1449 or Donald.Allen@dmv.virginia.gov
<u>Jan 6, 2010 • 8:00 a.m.</u> Stafford County Sheriff's Office Training Room 1225 Courthouse Road • Stafford, VA 22554	<u>Jan 6, 2010 • 1:00 p.m.</u> Central Virginia Criminal Justice Academy 1200 Church Street • Lynchburg, VA 24504
<u>Jan 7, 2010 • 8:00 a.m.</u> Crater Criminal Justice Training Academy 6130 County Drive • Disputanta, VA 23842	<u>Jan 7, 2010 • 1:00 p.m.</u> New River Criminal Justice Academy 3165 Greenbrier Road • Draper, VA 24324
<u>Jan 19, 2010 • 8:00 a.m.</u> Richmond Police Training Academy 1202 West Graham Road • Richmond, VA 23220	<u>Jan 25, 2010 • 1:00 p.m.</u> Southwest Criminal Justice Academy 330 Bonham Road • Bristol, VA 24201
<u>Jan 26, 2010 • 8:00 a.m.</u> South Boston Police Department Training Room 640 Hamilton Boulevard • South Boston, VA 24592	<u>Jan 26, 2010 • 1:00 p.m.</u> Cardinal Criminal Justice Academy 917 Central Avenue • Salem, VA 24153
<u>Jan 28, 2010 • 8:00 a.m.</u> Hampton Roads Criminal Justice Academy 805 Middle Ground Blvd. • Newport News, VA 23606	<u>Jan 27, 2010 • 1:00 p.m.</u> Central Shenandoah Criminal Justice Academy 3045 Lee Highway • Weyers Cave, VA 24486
	<u>Feb 3, 2010 • 1:00 p.m.</u> Rappahannock Regional CJ Academy – Middletown Campus 2275 Third Street • Middletown, VA 22645

REGISTRATION INFORMATION:

Agency: _____ Phone: _____

Contact Name: _____ Email: _____

Location and # of Officers Wishing to Attend: Location: _____ # of Officers: _____

To register, you may call or email your registration information to the contact person assigned to your class selection; or, you may fax this form to the VACP — (804) 285-3363.

Thirteen People Killed on Virginia Highways During 2009 Thanksgiving Holiday

State Police cited 886 safety belt violations, 239 child restraint violations



(November 30, 2009) RICHMOND — While traffic fatalities overall are on the decline compared to this time last year, the number of fatal crashes remained high for the 2009 Thanksgiving holiday. Preliminary totals indicate 13 individuals were killed in 13 crashes during the five-day statistical counting period. Traffic crashes during the 2008 Thanksgiving holiday period claimed 12 lives.

Prior to the extended holiday weekend, Virginia State Police participated in a Click It or Ticket enforcement wave (Nov. 15-22, 2009). Despite the earlier safety initiative, four of the 13 individuals killed during the 2009 Thanksgiving holiday were not wearing a safety belt. Also, state police cited 886 safety belt violations and 239 child restraint violations across the Commonwealth. Of the 12 people killed in traffic crashes in Virginia during the 2008 Thanksgiving holiday, nine people failed to buckle up.

"The loss of life during this holiday weekend is unfortunate and needless when it only takes a few seconds to secure a safety belt," says Colonel W. Steven Flaherty, Virginia State Police Superintendent. "Whether you are a driver or a passenger, buckling up should be one of the first actions you take as you get into a vehicle."

Among those who died, three of the victims were pedestrians and one was a motorcyclist. Alcohol was a factor in at least four of the crashes.

As part of the Virginia State Police holiday enforcement safety strategy, troopers participated in the Combined Accident Reduction Effort, or Operation C.A.R.E. The state-sponsored, national program is designed to decrease crashes, fatalities and injuries caused by speeding, impaired driving and the failure to use occupant restraints. The traffic safety program is conducted during the year's national holidays.

The 2009 Operation C.A.R.E. program yielded the following summonses and/or arrests by Virginia State Police statewide: 10,459 for speeding; 2,657 for reckless driving; 132 for driving under the influence and 6,695 for other hazardous violations.

The 2009 Thanksgiving statistical counting period began Wednesday, Nov. 25, and ended at midnight Sunday, Nov. 29, 2009. Seventy-five percent of the Virginia State Police work force worked this Thanksgiving weekend as part of Operation C.A.R.E.

Winter Storm Generates 16,000 Calls for Service for State Police

Troopers responded to 3,237 crashes and 3,567 disabled vehicles over 36 hours

(December 21, 2009) RICHMOND — As Virginia digs out from the weekend's winter storm, Virginia State Police continue Monday to respond to disabled vehicle calls throughout the western and central regions of the Commonwealth. From Friday (Dec. 18) through midnight Sunday (Dec. 20), Virginia State Police emergency dispatchers logged at least 16,042 calls for service. Troopers statewide responded to 3,237 traffic crashes and 3,567 disabled vehicles during the 36-hour period. The storm yielded an approximate 42 percent increase in calls for service compared to the previous weekend (Dec. 11-13, 2009).

"By far this weekend's snowstorm demanded one of the greatest emergency responses for State Police resources in years," said Colonel W. Steven Flaherty, Virginia State Police Superintendent. "The storm's quick entry and accumulation across the western, central and northern regions of the state made for challenging conditions for motorists and emergency responders."

Of the seven reported deaths that occurred in Virginia during the winter storm, at this time two are confirmed as weather-related traffic fatalities. Those

two fatal crashes were investigated by State Police and occurred in Carroll County on Friday (Dec. 18) and Fauquier County (Dec. 19).

With the increased presence of service equipment vehicles on the interstates and highways, motorists are reminded to be alert to these vehicles and extend the same courtesy provided to emergency personnel. For the safety of those workers and their vehicles, please move over and/or slow down when passing wrecker, VDOT, and other service vehicles working alongside the road.

When passing emergency service responder vehicles and personnel, state law requires drivers to change to another travel lane or, when unable to, to slow down and cautiously pass such personnel stopped on the side of a road.

The following is a breakdown of calls for service by Virginia State Police division from 6:00 a.m. Friday (Dec. 18) through 11:59 p.m. Sunday (Dec. 20):

- **Division I (Richmond) —**
Traffic Crashes: 655
Disabled Vehicles: 822
Total Calls for Service: 3,240

- **Division II (Culpeper) —**
Traffic Crashes: 582
Disabled Vehicles: 559
Total Calls for Service: 2,316
- **Division III (Appomattox) —**
Traffic Crashes: 345
Disabled Vehicles: 403
Total Calls for Service: 1,859
- **Division IV (Wytheville) —**
Traffic Crashes: 456
Disabled Vehicles: 419
Total Calls for Service: 2,444
- **Division V (Chesapeake) —**
Traffic Crashes: 429
Disabled Vehicles: 227
Total Calls for Service: 1,792
- **Division VI (Salem) —**
Traffic Crashes: 492
Disabled Vehicles: 442
Total Calls for Service: 2,104
- **Division VII (Fairfax) —**
Traffic Crashes: 278
Disabled Vehicles: 695
Total Calls for Service: 2,287

Albemarle County Police Conduct Specialized Speed Enforcement Operation



(October 21, 2009) The Albemarle County Police Department announces the results of a specialized speed enforcement operation conducted along the southbound lanes of the U.S. Rt. 29/250 bypass between Ivy Road and I-64 on Tuesday, October 20, 2009 between 9:00 am – 3:30 pm.

During the 6½-hour operation, a total of 150 traffic summonses were issued to 127 drivers. Of the traffic summonses issued, 109 were for speeding, 11 for state inspection violations, 10 for registration violations, 4 for failing to update driver's

license, 3 for seat belt violations, 2 for drivers whose license was suspended, 2 for improper display of license plates, 2 for following too closely, 1 for a driver having no operator's license and 1 for an equipment violation.

The highest speed recorded was 75 mph. The posted speed limit along the bypass is 55 mph.

Seven commercial motor vehicles were inspected resulting in three traffic summonses being issued related to equipment and licensing issues. Two

trucks were taken out of service for safety related equipment problems.

A total of nine officers and two supervisors participated in this operation. Two motor officers with the Virginia State Police also assisted.

Speed continues to be a problem on many area highways. Driving is a full time responsibility that demands full attention. Motorists are reminded to slow down, avoid distractions, wear your seat belt and drive responsibly.

Albemarle County Police Issue 250 Summonses Over Extended Thanksgiving Holiday Weekend

(November 30, 2009) The Albemarle County Police report the statistics for traffic-related incidents and enforcement activity that was conducted in Albemarle County over the 2009 Thanksgiving holiday. The statistical counting period began on Wednesday, November 25 and ended at midnight Sunday, November 29 2009.

A total of 25 motor vehicle crashes were investigated. All of the crashes were property damage-only crashes — no injuries were reported. A total of six DUI arrests were made over the holiday weekend, including one arrest for a third or subsequent offense (felony).

Officers issued a total of 250 traffic summonses. Of the total number of summonses issued:

- 139 were for speeding;
- 26 were for registration violations;
- 16 for inspection related violations;
- 15 for failing to obey a traffic signal;
- 11 for driver's having no operator's license;

- 5 for driver's operating with a suspended license;
- 5 for failing to obey a highway sign;
- 4 for failing to yield / slow down for an emergency vehicle (move over violations);
- 4 for equipment violations;
- 2 for driver's having no insurance; and,
- 1 seat belt violation.

According to preliminary information received by the Virginia State Police, thirteen people were killed in thirteen crashes over the holiday weekend. Alcohol was a factor in at least four of the crashes. Four of the thirteen people killed were not wearing a safety belt. Traffic crashes during the 2008 Thanksgiving holiday claimed twelve lives.

So far this year ten people have been killed on county highways.

Motorists are reminded that the majority of traffic crashes are caused by driver error and are preventable. By employing safe driving practices the risk of getting into a crash is reduced significantly.



The Albemarle County Police worked with one of their safety partners, AAA Mid-Atlantic, to get a safety message put up on one of the billboards along Monacan Trail, which was just recently completed. The sign is located along the northbound lanes of Monacan Trail between the community of North Garden and Taylor's Gap Road. This is yet another proactive step in their continuing efforts at making traffic safety a priority.

Albemarle Police Conduct Weight Enforcement Operation

On Wednesday, September 30, the Albemarle County Police Department Traffic Unit, with supplemental support from the DMV Motor Carrier Service Operations, established a weighing and inspection station in the parking lot of the old Monticello Visitor's Center off Scottsville Road at College Drive. The purpose of this operation was to ensure

compliance with the federal and state laws related to size, weight, licensing, and equipment requirements for trucks, trailers, and towed vehicles.

A total of 26 trucks, trailers, and towed vehicles were weighed. Twelve of these vehicles were found to be overweight resulting in \$2,640 in penalties, fees and damages being assessed. The most over-

weight vehicle was a locally owned tractor trailer truck loaded with logs which was found to be 6200 pounds overweight.

Six trucks were submitted for safety related inspections. Two of these trucks were subsequently placed out of service for serious equipment problems. These include deficiencies with the braking system, suspension, and a fuel leak.

Community SpeedWatch Program Announced in Leesburg

Program aimed at reducing speeding violations on neighborhood streets

The Leesburg Police Department has announced a new traffic safety initiative aimed at reducing the problem of speeding along neighborhood streets. The Community SpeedWatch Program has been established as a means to assist residential neighborhoods in deterring speed in their communities. Participating volunteers who attend training by the police department's radar instructors are able to sign out a hand-held radar unit and monitor traffic and record violations observed. The results are then forwarded to the police department where warning notices are sent to the registered owners of the vehicle advising them that their vehicle was observed being operated in excess of the posted speed limit and asking their



cooperation with the Town of Leesburg's traffic laws in order to make the community a safer place to live.

The Community SpeedWatch Program is a multi-step program designed to reduce neighborhood traffic speeds by increasing motorist awareness. When a request for the Community SpeedWatch Program is obtained, the police department will conduct a review of data such as crash reports, citations, and other complaints to support the program. If it is determined that a problem exists, the first step the department will take is educational in nature by placing radar trailers within the neighborhood as a means of raising motorist awareness. If deployment of the radar trailers fails to have a noticeable effect on reducing the speeding

complaints, residents may then obtain the hand-held radar units to monitor traffic and record violations and motorist information. Residents participating in this portion of the program must be a resident of the affected community and attend training on the operation of the equipment and program guidelines.

While heightened awareness may be all that is needed for most Leesburg neighborhoods, some areas may require the police to monitor traffic and issue tickets to speeding motorists. Results of this effort will be evaluated to determine success.

For further information on the Community SpeedWatch Program, please contact either Lieutenant Jeff Dubé or Sergeant Steve McVay with the Community Services Section of the Leesburg Police Department at (703) 771-4500.

'Operation Chill' Checkpoint Conducted by Augusta County Sheriff's Office on Halloween

On Saturday, October 31 — Halloween — the Augusta County Sheriff's Office conducted a two-hour traffic safety checkpoint. For every child that was properly restrained in a vehicle that came through the checkpoint, deputies handed out coupons for a free small Slurpee. These coupons were well-received by the parents.

Later that same night, deputies conducted saturation patrols thanks to a grant from the Virginia Highway Safety Office. While on patrol, Sgt. Monty Sellers clocked a vehicle going 83 mph and, when he attempted to pull the vehicle over, it turned into a pursuit.

The driver was ultimately stopped and then charged with reckless driving, driving on a suspended license, felony eluding, and felony child endangerment as he had been driving with his 15-month-old child in the back seat. The little girl had been in a child restraint, but during the pursuit, she had come loose from the seat and was leaning up against the passenger seat when the driver was finally stopped.



Front Royal Police Department Conducts Annual ‘Slow Down In Our Town’ Campaign; Nets Multiple Violations

The Front Royal Police Department conducted its annual “Slow Down In Our Town” campaign in October, which was geared towards getting motorists to reduce their speed. Traffic Enforcement Officer Donald Orye coordinated the campaign with the department and local news media. A press release was sent out warning motorists of the upcoming campaign and the particular roads that would be strictly enforced.



The department’s speed trailer was placed in the target areas to warn drivers of their speed. There also were officers positioned in the area using either RADAR or LIDAR to conduct the enforcement.

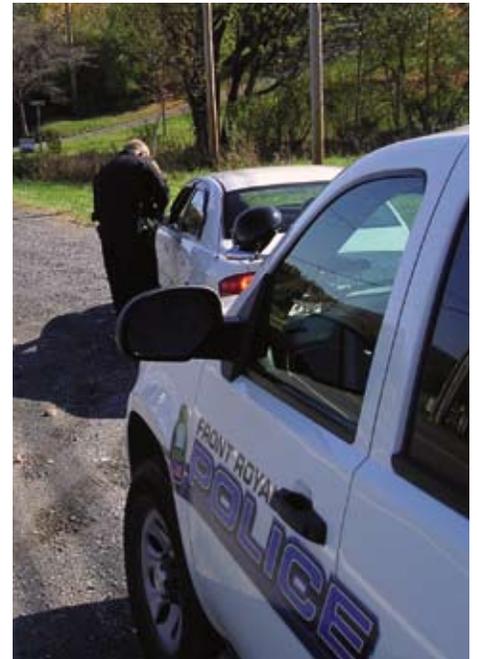
This year’s campaign was focused on school zones within the town.

“We have several school zones that

have flashing signs during school times. During these particular times, the speed limit is lowered by ten miles, either to 15 mph or 25 mph. These times were the focus point of our enforcement,” states Officer Orye. “Seat belt and child restraint violations were also a key point for enforcement.”

The campaign ran October 12, 2009 through November 1, 2009 and netted a total of 210 summonses or arrests. A total of 203 traffic stops were made during this period. The following summonses were issued:

- speeding – 75;
- seatbelt/child restraint – 13;
- driving suspended – 10;
- DUI – 5;
- speeding in a school zone – 7; and,
- all other arrests – 100.



“Best Practices” Impaired Driving Workshops Conducted

Virginia Highway Safety Office Law Enforcement Liaison Don Allen and Wythe County Deputy Commonwealth’s Attorney H. Lee Harrell have completed five of the seven scheduled “Best Practices Workshops” on Impaired Driving and Constitutional and Case Law Issues as of December, 2009. The workshops are sponsored by the Virginia Highway Safety Office as part of Virginia’s Smart, Safe and Sober Partnership and the training is being offered to enhance Virginia’s Checkpoint Strikeforce impaired driving enforcement efforts.

When completed, the workshops will have covered the entire western region of Virginia, from Bristol in the south to Middletown in the north. The workshops began in October with the first

being held at the Southwest Criminal Justice Academy in Bristol and the second at Central Shenandoah Criminal Justice Academy in Weyers Cave.

Three workshops were conducted in November — one at New River Criminal Justice Academy in Draper, one at Central Virginia Criminal Justice Academy in Lynchburg and one at Cardinal Criminal Justice Academy in Salem. A total of one hundred forty-seven police officers attended these first five workshops. A combination of legal and career development in-service credit hours were awarded for attendance.

The remaining two workshops will be held December 14 in Martinsville and January 12 in Middletown.

Eleventh-Annual Event Honors Greater Washington Area Law Enforcement in Fight Against Drunk Driving

(December 11, 2009) McLEAN, VA—Twelve Washington-metropolitan area police officers were cited for their “outstanding commitment in the fight against drunk driving in Greater Washington” today and presented with the area’s twelfth-annual “Law Enforcement Awards of Excellence for Impaired Driving Prevention.”

Presented this morning at a regional ceremony held in McLean, Virginia, the nonprofit Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP) presented its 2009 Law Enforcement Awards to:

- **Deputy Chief Eddie Reyes**, Alexandria Police Department;
- **Officer Andrew Necelli**, Arlington County Police Department;
- **Fairfax County Police Department’s Auxiliary Police Officer Program**;
- **Deputy Jason Totaro**, Loudoun County Sheriff’s Office;
- **Trooper Matthew L. Allen**, Maryland State Police;
- **Officer Jose E. Rodriguez**, Metropolitan D.C. Police Department;
- **Officer III John Romack**, Montgomery County Department of Police;
- **Sergeant James L. Ianni**, Prince George’s County Police Department;
- **Officer David A. Ehrhardt** and **Officer Curt Redlin**, Prince William County Police Department;
- **Officer Adam E. Zielinski**, United States Park Police; and,
- **Senior Trooper Michael S. Middleton**, Virginia State Police.

The annual awards, presented at a ceremony this morning at Maggiano’s Little Italy in the Tysons Galleria, were bestowed by WRAP in memory of Metropolitan Police Department’s Motor Patrol Officer Anthony W. Simms. Officer Simms, as a result of injuries sustained while on duty, lost his life to an impaired driver during Memorial Day weekend in 1996. WRAP’s 2009 Law Enforcement Awards were presented by Officer Simms’ widow, Lieutenant Pamela Simms, also formerly with the Metropolitan Police Department, along with News4’s Sports Anchor Lindsay Czarniak. Today’s event speakers included Virginia Delegate Vivian Watts (D-Annandale) and Alexandria Police Chief Earl L. Cook, amongst others.

“Today’s awardees represent the front lines in the fight against drunk driving in Greater Washington,” said Kurt Gregory Erickson, WRAP’s President. “It is only through their commitment in stopping the threat that impaired driving presents to all our friends and families that the Washington-metropolitan area continues to have a rate of alcohol-related traffic deaths lower than the national average.”

According to WRAP and contained in the organization’s pending 2009 “How Safe are Our Roads” report (see online at: <http://www.wrap.org/highway-safety09.pdf>), alcohol-related traffic fatalities, injuries and crashes all decreased in the Washington-metropolitan area last year.

In addition to receiving the Law Enforcement Awards, each of the 2009 WRAP honorees also received a pair of complementary Washington Wizards tickets (courtesy of the Washington Wizards), a \$ 25 prepaid gas card (courtesy of Exxon Mobil) and two high-tech and illuminated ticket boards and embroidered work bag (courtesy of the region’s Checkpoint Strikeforce campaign).

Founded in 1982, the Washington Regional Alcohol Program is an award-winning public-private partnership working to prevent drunk driving and underage drinking. Through public education, innovative health education programs and advocacy, WRAP is credited with keeping the metro-Washington area’s alcohol-related traffic deaths consistently lower than the national average. WRAP, however, may best be known to area residents via the organization’s popular free cab ride service for would-be drunk drivers, SoberRide.

For more information, visit WRAP’s web site at www.wrap.org.



WRAP NEWS

Washington Regional Alcohol Program

Drunk Driving Incidents Decline in Greater Washington

New report cites second year decreases in local DUI fatalities, injuries & crashes

(December 11, 2009) WASHINGTON, D.C.—For the second year in a row, the number of alcohol-related traffic fatalities, injuries and crashes all declined in the Washington-metropolitan area in 2008 according to a preliminary report released today by the non-profit Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP).

“The report’s findings appear to show the dividends of both highly-visible law enforcement deterrent efforts like the region’s Checkpoint Strikeforce campaign as well as increased public attention to the threat of drunk driving,” said Kurt Gregory Erickson, WRAP’s President.

Today’s data will be contained in WRAP’s 17th-annual report, “How Safe are Our Roads?, A Data Report on the Impact of Drunk Driving on Highway Safety in the Washington Metropolitan Region” scheduled for full release later this month. The report was prepared by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) for the McLean, Virginia-based alcohol-education group.

Findings in the 2009 report include:

- **FATALS...** Local alcohol and or drug-related traffic deaths decreased by more than 20-percent (20.7%) between 2007 and 2008 (and from 116 to 92 such fatalities). Such represents a second-year consecutive decline in such deaths occurring in the Greater Washington area.
- **CRASHES...** Area traffic crashes attributed to alcohol and or drugs decreased by more than 21-percent (21.3%) between 2007 and 2008 (and from 5,015 to 3,946 such crashes). Such represents a second-year consecutive decline in such crashes occurring in the Greater Washington area.
- **INJURIES...** Local alcohol and or drug-related traffic injuries also decreased by nearly 17-percent (16.8%) between 2007 and 2008 (and from 2,827 to 2,352 such injuries). Such represents

a second-year consecutive decline in such injuries occurring in the Greater Washington area.

- **ARRESTS...** Local arrests for either driving under the influence (DUI) or driving while intoxicated (DWI) increased by over four-and-a-half-percent (4.6%) between 2007 and 2008 (and from 14,976 to 15,669 such arrests). Such represents the highest level of impaired driving arrests occurring in the Greater Washington area in six years (2002:16,309 DUI/DWI arrests).

Of the Washington-metropolitan area’s 310 total traffic fatalities last year, 29.7% (92) of these roadway deaths were alcohol and or drug-related. 2008 national statistics (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration or NHTSA) show that 37-percent of total U.S. vehicular fatalities were reported as alcohol / drug-related.

While WRAP and COG officials pointed to high-profile law enforcement deployments like local sobriety checkpoints and saturation patrols – and the voluntary compliance gained from the same – as a principal catalyst in Greater Washington’s recent downward DUI numbers, they also stressed the need to resist complacency.

“Because drunk-driving arrests are still a problem every hour in metropolitan Washington, we must look for even more effective ways to combat this preventable killer,” said David Robertson, COG’s executive director.

WRAP’s timing in releasing its preliminary report is in tandem with this country’s most deadly time of year when it comes to drunk driving. According to NHTSA, historically, more people are killed in alcohol-related traffic crashes between Thanksgiving and New Years than during any other period of the year.

WRAP’s 2009 “How Safe are Our Roads?” preliminary report can be found as a PDF file at: <http://www.wrap.org/highwaysafety09.pdf>

SoberRide Halloween Success: Program Removes ‘Would-Be Drunk Driver Every 63 Seconds’

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Halloween night’s SoberRide program provided 515 free cab rides home to would be drunk drivers in the Washington-metropolitan area.

Provided by the nonprofit Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP), the SoberRide program began Halloween night at 10:00 pm and continued until 6:00 am November 1 as a way to keep local roads safe from impaired drivers during this traditionally high-risk, holiday period.

“For SoberRide’s hours of operation this Halloween, this translates into the removal of a would-be drunk driver from Greater Washington’s roadways every 63-seconds,” said Kurt Gregory Erickson, WRAP’s President. The level of ridership was the second highest for Halloween according to WRAP and since the organization began its SoberRide program in 1993. The 515

SoberRides provided this Halloween was surpassed only by a three-night SoberRide offering in 2005 and when a record 579 area persons took advantage of the free cab ride service to deter drunk driving.

During SoberRide’s eight-hour period this Halloween, area residents celebrating with alcohol could call the toll-free SoberRide phone number 1-800-200-TAXI and be afforded a no-cost (up to a \$ 50 fare), safe way home. AT&T wireless users could call #-TAXI for the same service. Local taxicab companies throughout the Washington-metropolitan area provided this no-cost service to local residents age 21 and older who otherwise may have attempted to drive home after drinking.

SoberRide was offered in the District; the Maryland counties of Montgomery and Prince George’s; and the Northern

Virginia counties of Arlington, Fairfax, (eastern) Loudoun and Prince William.

Sponsors of this year’s Halloween SoberRide offering included: Anheuser-Busch, AT&T, Diageo, Enterprise Rent-A-Car Foundation, Red Top Cab of Arlington and the Washington Area New Automobile Dealers Association.

Participating cab companies included Alexandria Yellow Cab; Fairfax Yellow Cab; Loudoun Yellow Cab; Manassas Cab Company; Red Top Cab; Silver Cab of Prince George’s County; Yellow Cab of D.C.; and Yellow Cab of Prince William County.

Since 1993, alone, WRAP’s SoberRide program has provided 44,635 free cab rides home to would-be impaired drivers in the Greater Washington area. More information about WRAP’s SoberRide initiative can be found at www.soberride.com



All across the Commonwealth, law enforcement agencies recognize individuals from young to old, even some in their own ranks, who were involved in a traffic crash and, because they were wearing a safety belt or were in a child safety restraint, their injuries were reduced or their lives were saved. Seventy-five awards were presented in 2009 — the most ever for the program in one year. Forty-three were presented in 2008 and 42 in 2007.

On November 30, 2009, the Ashland Police Department presented **Mr. Clyde Anderson** with the Saved by the Belt Award. Mr. Anderson was involved in a crash on July 15, 2009 in the Town of Ashland in which his vehicle was struck broad-side by another vehicle at an intersection when the driver of the other vehicle failed to stop for a stop sign. The other driver was traveling at approximately 35 mph when he struck Mr. Anderson's vehicle and the impact caused Mr. Anderson's vehicle to spin off of the roadway and strike a tree. Fortunately, Mr. Anderson was wearing his seat belt and both front and side air bags in his vehicle deployed, so he did not receive any injuries as a result of the crash.

Ashland Police Chief Doug Goodman (left) and Highway Safety Office Law Enforcement Liaison Frank Kowaleski made the presentation.



On October 26, 2009, **Mr. Leon Wilson** was presented with the Saved by the Belt Award during the quarterly awards ceremony of the Richmond Police Department. Highway Safety Office LEL Frank Kowaleski and Mr. Brian Chadrow of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) assisted in the presentation.

On July 11, 2009, Mr. Wilson was driving his wrecker truck when he was struck at the intersection of Hull Street and Belt Boulevard in Richmond by an individual who ran a red light at approximately 100 mph. Mr. Wilson's truck was struck so hard that it was spun 180 degrees and had the undercarriage knocked out from under it.

However, because he was properly belted, Mr. Wilson was not injured in the crash. Unfortunately, the driver of the other car was critically injured and his passenger was killed.

On December 7, 2009, Chesterfield County Police Chief Colonel Thierry Dupuis, Officer C. B. Scuderi, and representatives from the Virginia Highway Safety Office presented **Ms. Sue Ann Copertino**; her daughter, **Lianne**; and her daughter's friend, **Rochelle Rawls**, with the Saved by the Belt Award.

Ms. Copertino was traveling south on Salem Church Road in Chesterfield County when a vehicle traveling north swerved and struck Ms. Copertino's vehicle head-on at 35 mph. The collision caused extensive damage to both vehicles. Fortunately, everyone in the Copertino vehicle was properly belted and all air bags deployed.



The Saved by the Belt & Bag Program is open to any law enforcement agency regardless of affiliation with the VACP. Nominations for individuals who were involved in traffic crashes and were wearing safety restraint devices are being accepted. You may download the application from the Smart, Safe & Sober web site — www.smartsafeandsober.org/programs/sbbb.php.

On November 2, 2009 during a Town Council meeting, Christiansburg Police Chief Mark Sisson presented **Ms. Randi Stiles** with the Saved By the Belt Award for doing the smart, safe thing — obeying the law and buckling up — on the day she was involved in a crash in Christiansburg.

“After the crash, I told everyone about bulking up and nobody rides in my car without being buckled up,” stated Ms. Stiles after the presentation of the award certificate and coffee mug by Chief Sisson. Chief Sisson presented the award during the Christiansburg Town Council meeting.

Pictured: Sgt. Steve Swecker, Ms. Randi Stiles and her husband, Chief Sisson and Highway Safety Office LEL Don Allen.



On November 16, 2009, Highway Safety Office Law Enforcement Liaison Don Allen and Marion Police Chief Mike Roberts presented the **Samuel Martin family** of Marion, Va. with Saved by the Belt Awards for being properly restrained and seeing to it that the grandchildren traveling with them were properly restrained in child safety seats.

On May 5, 2009, the Martin family was involved in a crash when a rotating thunderstorm ravaged the town of Marion. Receiving an emergency broadcast message to evacuate their home, the Martins were headed to the residence of another family member when a large tree branch landed in the path of their vehicle. Hitting the branch, their vehicle went out of control and struck the end of a bridge as they were headed south on North Main Street within the town of Marion.

Lt. Rusty Hamm attributes the proper use of the safety belt systems, deployment of the airbags and the proper installation of the child safety seats to preventing serious injury to the entire Martin family.

Lt. Rusty Hamm attributes the proper use of the safety belt systems, deployment of the airbags and the proper installation of the child safety seats to preventing serious injury to the entire Martin family.

Pictured, front row: Lt. Rusty Hamm, Chief Michael D. Roberts, Brandi Martin, Katie Martin, Vanessa Martin, and Samuel Martin, along with grandchildren Isabella and Gabriella. Back row: Five members of the Marion Town Council.



Other Saved By Belt Awards Presented October – December, 2009

Recipient	Nominator	Nominating Agency
Lynda Williams-Moody	Deidra Pennington	Carilion Hospital
Timothy A. King	Lt. David Fuller	Chesterfield County Police Department
Larry Adam Frashure	Lt. David Fuller	Chesterfield County Police Department
Larry Kenneth Frashure	Lt. David Fuller	Chesterfield County Police Department
Evan Scott Smith	Sgt. C.T. Heidt	Christiansburg Police Department
Stormy Dale Fauls	Officer S.D. McDaniel	Dayton Police Department
Tito D. Howard	Officer D. Orye	Front Royal Police Department
Heather Justice	Officer Greg Deeds	Harrisonburg Police Department
Charles Cavanaugh	Randal Sheltra, VP Safety	Loomis Armored Car, Inc.
Joseph A. Moore	Lt. Morgen Tietjens	Newport News Police Department
Jean Marie W. Bentley	Sgt. T. O. Bozeman	Portsmouth Police Department
Isabelle Bentley	Officer Tom Bozeman	Portsmouth Police Department
Cindia Lou Appell	MPO R.L. Spreder	Virginia Beach Police Department
Patty Melissa Thomas	Capt. Chad Trivitt	Wythe County Sheriff's Office

Annual John T. Hanna Traffic Safety Awards Presented for Outstanding Service in the Hampton Roads Area

(December 1, 2009) HAMPTON ROADS, VA — The 2009 Annual John T. Hanna Awards, presented by Drive Safe Hampton Roads, recognized eleven local individuals and organizations for outstanding performance in the area of traffic safety. This year's recipients include police officers, a traffic engineering team, a military group, and several outstanding individuals from the area.

John T. Hanna, the namesake of the awards, is widely known in the Commonwealth for his years of service dedicated to improving traffic safety in Virginia. Hanna served as the Deputy Commissioner for Transportation Safety at the state Department of Motor Vehicles and worked in the traffic safety field for more than 60 years.

Drive Safe Hampton Roads is a regional coalition comprised of safety advocates from local law enforcement and fire safety divisions, corporations, the military, state, city and county government, and individuals. For over 21 years, Drive Safe Hampton Roads has been dedicated to preventing crashes, injuries, and fatalities on the region's roadways.

The 2009 John T. Hanna Award Recipients are as follows:

Impaired Driving Prevention

The **United States Fleet Forces Alcohol & Drug Control Officers (ADCOs)** and the **Virginia Beach Police Department Traffic Safety Unit (VBPD-TSU)** are the joint recipients of this award category. They joined forces with the goal of streamlining the "Safety Stand Down" process for the local Navy Commands in Hampton Roads. "Safety Stand Down"s offer the opportunity for commands to stop their normal work routine for a designated period of time to focus on safety related issues. The TSU and the ADCOs developed a single source reservation and coordination process to maximize coverage and provide efficiency of resources for VBPD to ensure that sailors understand the hazards associated with drinking and driving. The cooperative effort between Navy ADCOs and the VBPD - TSU not only streamlined the process, but also resulted in a multifaceted and unique training availability for Shore Commands and Deployable Units in the area of DUI/DWI Prevention. Over 5,750 sailors in Hampton Roads have been trained using the Myths vs. Truths and /or VBPD-TSU presentation. In Hampton Roads, there are more than 43,000 active duty sailors and many more Navy family members. Thousands have received this important impaired driving prevention information.

Law Enforcement Initiatives

Two awards were presented in this category – Group and Individual. The Group award was presented to the **Newport News Police Department – Motor Carrier Unit**. This group, made up of only 3 sworn officers who perform this duty as a secondary function to their normal daily duties, has completed 127 level one inspections, 47 hazardous materials inspections, placed 38 vehicles out of service, 3 drivers out of service, issued 51 summonses, and inspected 21 district tow companies during the past year. This unit meets with local businesses, city departments, students, and other agencies to educate personnel in state and

local regulations, and to demonstrate how to properly secure loads and placard for transported hazardous materials. The unit focuses on traffic safety for primarily the Newport News area, but also extends this expertise to VDOT and other law enforcement jurisdictions. This program has been featured on the Newport News City Channel 48 on the "Behind the Badge" program to highlight the importance of this law enforcement initiative.

The Individual Award in this category was presented to **Officer Scott A. Mounger, Newport News Police Department (NNPD)**. Officer Mounger continuously promoted public traffic safety in Newport News by instructing officers, educating citizens through public safety programs, and being proactive in traffic enforcement. Due to his strong work ethic and instructing background, he has volunteered at mock crashes, public safety events, school fairs, and checkpoints. His initiative and dedication is evident in his work as a DCJS General Instructor and as a member of the NNPD's Serious and Complex Accident Team. Officer Scott Mounger has been recognized by the Peninsula MADD organization for arresting 27 DUI offenders in 2006, 60 in 2007 and 42 in 2008. He was the top arresting officer in the last two years.

Traffic Safety Activism

Two awards were also presented in this category – Group and Individual. The Group award was presented to the **Virginia Beach City Department of Traffic Engineering** for two projects they implemented. Their efforts to replace pedestrian signals with countdown signals allow pedestrians to know how much time they have to safely cross before a traffic light changes. The use of pedestrian countdown signals at the Oceanfront has benefited over 30,000 pedestrians a day during the summer months. In addition, these count down signal displays have been installed at all high schools in the city, and have provided a safer crossing for students at major intersections throughout the city. Another traffic safety project was initiated after research revealed that the Parkway Shopping Center access at Lynnhaven Parkway had an average of 26 crashes per year by vehicles entering or exiting this shopping center. The installation of the new signal and pedestrian countdown signal and the median closure at the midblock previously non-signaled intersection now provides a safe crossing for the pedestrian and the motorist at this location.

The Individual award recipient in the Traffic Safety Activism category is **Mary Ann Rayment, DMV: Virginia Highway Safety Office**. Ms. Rayment is the Occupant Protection Coordinator for the Commonwealth of Virginia. As an active member of several traffic safety organizations, she utilizes her expertise in numerous committees and programs, i.e. child safety seat checks, HERO, "Get It Together", Motorcycle 411, and *Click It or Ticket*. Mary Ann works and donates countless hours in innovative community traffic safety activities beyond her regular duties that have had a direct impact upon saving lives in Virginia. Ms. Rayment was instrumental in developing the very successful "Border to Border" traffic safety checkpoint program. For 13 years these checkpoints have provided a vital service and, during 2009, 18 sites were worked in Virginia, many in conjunction with neighboring states, prior to the Labor Day holiday.

Lifetime Achievement in Transportation Safety Award



Master Trooper Robert "R.C." Powell (Virginia State Police) has more than 29 years of hands-on experience, 27 of which he has served as a certified North American Standard roadside inspector. Trooper Powell has been recognized by the Virginia Court of Appeals as an expert witness in vehicle accident investigation/reconstruction and is a subject matter expert in accident reconstruction training. He brings his expertise in roadside inspection to Instructor Development Training, curriculum development, to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, and as a member of numerous organizations and planning committees. In Hampton Roads, Trooper Powell has worked with area police departments since 1988 to assist in establishing Motor Carrier Safety teams. His insight and expertise assisted with development of both the regional and state-wide hauling manuals and research studies, thus setting safer standards for the motoring public. For many years, Trooper Powell has taken a pro-active stance in traffic safety, both on a professional level as well as a volunteer level.

Honorable Mention

E. V. Williams, Inc. for their innovative traffic safety improvements made to the Interstate 64 Battlefield Boulevard Interchange in Chesapeake, Virginia.

Pupil Transportation Safety

Newport News Police Department – "STOP! SCHOOL BUS!" Safety Program. The Newport News Police Department has offered the "STOP! SCHOOL BUS!" program to all of the 75,000 elementary school age students. Every year, all kindergarten students get the full class on school bus safety and proper bus etiquette and grades 1-5 receive a refresher course. In addition, all 373 school bus drivers are given refresher courses in the observations of stopped school bus violations. Newport News has had zero pedestrian fatalities and only very few minor incidents involving schools buses.

Occupant Protection

York-Poquoson Sheriff's Deputy John Henry has made seat belt enforcement a personal issue and vigorously enforces both child safety restraint laws and seat belt usage laws. During the past year, he was singularly responsible for over half the summonses for child restraint and seat belt violations issued by the department. Deputy Henry self initiates these enforcement activities and targets school zones, residential areas, and major intersections at the entrance to residential neighborhoods. He not only issues summonses, but educates those he pulls over regarding the importance of correct safety seat installation and use of seat belts. Deputy Henry can be seen during his shift standing on the side of the road armed with a whistle watching for child safety seat and other traffic violations. His commitment to enforcement of occupant protection no doubt makes the citizens of York County and Poquoson safer.

Public Transportation Safety

Eugene D. Gibson, Smithfield Transportation. In his professional role, Eugene Gibson performs company vehicle accident investigations and ensures that company/drivers adhere to the DOT rules/regulations and state laws. In recent years, he

has worked to present a highway safety education program to students. The "sharing the road with a truck" program is based on the Federal Highway Administration's national public service highway campaign called the "No-Zone". The main goal is to educate the motoring public, especially younger drivers, to make them aware of commercial vehicle limitations. It focuses on the truck's blind spots, and teaches safe driving techniques for motorists to use when operating in the vicinity of commercial vehicles. Mr. Gibson has presented this program at numerous schools in Isle of Wight, Surry, and North Carolina. He has also shown the No Zone program to truck driving schools. Dedicated and serious about driver safety, he focuses not only on his company's needs, but others in the Hampton Roads area. Hundreds of young drivers and older drivers have attended the No Zone program, making Mr. Eugene Gibson a worthy recipient of the public transportation safety award.

Youth Traffic Safety

Over the past 25 years, **Mrs. La Monica Samuel** has been involved with youth traffic safety by educating and promoting positive choices among her family members, with youth organizations, at community health and wellness conferences, and to school populations. She has trained and provided outreach efforts to thousands of youth through the Virginia Celebrate Life Operation Prom/Graduation Program. This program promotes celebrating these special and memorable events, among youth, without the use of alcohol and drugs. Youth traffic safety and health is the common goal and interest for the Celebrate Life program, families, schools and the community and La Monica Samuel has shown her true commitment to constantly educating and spreading the message on the importance of these issues. Through Ms. Samuel's workshops provided to area schools trying to promote alcohol free prom and graduation events, she has directly and indirectly impacted over 125,000 young people during the months of April-June. The ripple effect of her efforts are reaching even more youth, as they share ideas of a healthier celebration with friends.

For more information: www.drivesafehr.org or call (757) 498-2562. Photos are available online at www.smartsafeandsober.org.

Early Estimate of Motor Vehicle Traffic Fatalities for First Half of 2009 Shows 7 Percent Decline from Same Period in 2008

A statistical projection of traffic fatalities for the first half of 2009 shows that an estimated 16,626 people died in motor vehicle traffic crashes. This represents a decline of about 7 percent as compared to the 17,871 fatalities that occurred in the first half of 2008, as shown in Table 1. Fatalities declined

by about 10 percent in the first quarter and declined by about 4 percent in the second quarter of 2009, as compared to the respective quarters in 2008.

The second quarter of 2009 will be the 13th consecutive quarter of declines in fatalities as compared to the same quarter from the previous year, as illus-

trated by the highlighted percentages in Table 1.

Traffic fatalities have been declining steadily since reaching a near-term peak in 2005. Preliminary data reported by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) shows that vehicle miles traveled (VMT) in the first half of 2009 dropped by about

Table 1: Fatalities and Fatality Rate by Quarter, First Half and the Percentage Change From the Corresponding Quarter or First Half in the Previous Year

Quarter	1st Quarter (Jan-Mar)	2nd Quarter (Apr-Jun)	3rd Quarter (Jul-Sep)	4th Quarter (Oct-Dec)	Total (Full Year)	1st Half (Jan-Jun)
Fatalities and Percentage Change in Fatalities for the Corresponding Quarter From the Prior Year						
2005	9,239	11,005	11,897	11,369	43,510	20,244
2006	9,558 [+3.5%]	10,942 [-0.6%]	11,395 [-4.2%]	10,813 [-4.9%]	42,708 [-1.8%]	20,500 [+1.3%]
2007	9,354 [-2.1%]	10,611 [-3.0%]	11,056 [-3.0%]	10,238 [-5.3%]	41,259 [-3.4%]	19,965 [-2.6%]
2008	8,451 [-9.7%]	9,420 [-11%]	9,900 [-10%]	9,490 [-7.3%]	37,261 [-9.7%]	17,871 [-10%]
2009†	7,567 [-10%]	9,059 [-3.8%]	-	-	-	16,626 [-7.0%]
Fatality Rate per 100 Million Vehicle Miles of Travel (VMT)						
2005	1.32	1.42	1.54	1.54	1.46	1.37
2006	1.35	1.41	1.47	1.44	1.42	1.38
2007	1.31	1.35	1.41	1.37	1.36	1.33
2008	1.22	1.24	1.32	1.31	1.27	1.23
2009†	1.11	1.19	-	-	-	1.15

†2009 Statistical projections and rates based on these projections.

Source: Fatalities: 2005-2007 FARS Final File, 2008 FARS Annual Report File

VMT: FHWA Traffic Volume Trends, June 2009

Figure 2: Reported Fatalities in 2007 and 2008 and Projected Fatalities in 2009, January to June

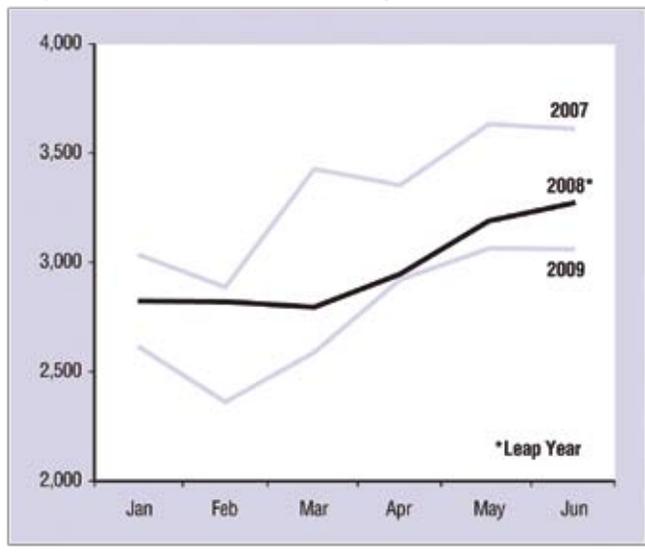
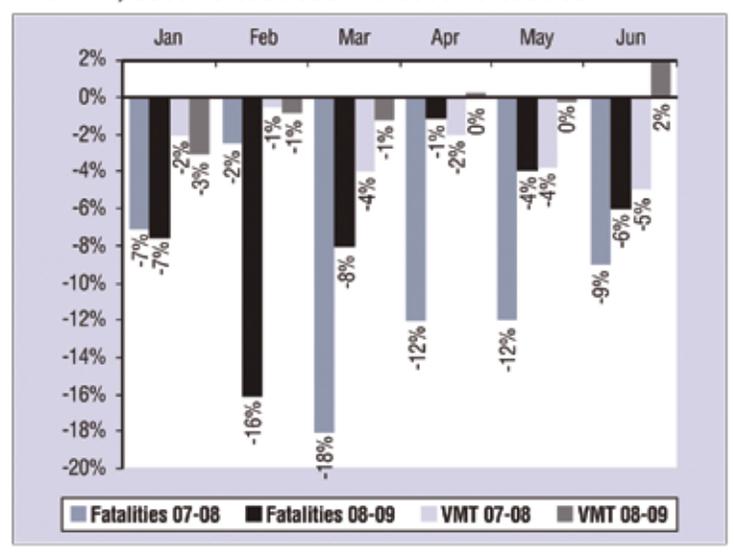


Figure 3: Percentage Change in Projected Traffic Fatalities And VMT, 2009 versus 2008 and 2008 versus 2007



Federal Highway Administration Revises Rules to Make Highways Safer

U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood calls updates needed and welcome

6.1 billion miles, or about a 0.4-percent decline. On a quarterly basis, the VMT dropped by 1.7 percent during the first quarter and increased by 0.7 percent in the second quarter. Also shown in Table 1 are the fatality rates per 100 million VMT, by quarter and for the first half. The fatality rate for the first half of 2009 declined to 1.15 fatalities per 100 million VMT, down from 1.23 fatalities per 100 million VMT in the first half of 2008.

As shown in Figures 2 and 3, declines in fatalities have been estimated for all six months in the first half of 2009, although the extent of the decline each month has fluctuated. While fatalities declined significantly in both January (-7%), March (-8%), and June (-6%), the largest decline during the first half was estimated for February (-16%). This decline should be interpreted in the light of 2008 being a leap year and 95 fatalities occurred during the extra day in February 2008.

The monthly declines during 2009 were significantly narrowed in April (-1%) and May (-4%) as compared to the other months. The monthly fatality rates were lower in the first six months of 2009 as compared to the rates in 2008. Also shown in Figure 2 are the corresponding month-to-month changes in VMT from 2008 to 2009 as well as the changes from 2007 to 2008, as estimated by FHWA. The VMT increased during two months (April and June) in 2009 as compared to the same months in 2008.

NHTSA will continue to report these estimates on a quarterly basis. Also, these estimates will be updated as more data is reported to NHTSA and therefore the final numbers may vary from these early numbers.

(December 16, 2009) WASHINGTON — As part of his continuing effort to improve safety on the nation's roads and bridges, U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood today released a comprehensive update to the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). The manual, which has been administered by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) since 1971, sets the standards for road safety throughout the country.

"Safety is this Department's top priority," said Secretary LaHood. "These new and updated standards will help make our nation's roads and bridges safer for drivers, construction workers and pedestrians alike."

The MUTCD is the national standard for all traffic control devices, including traffic signs, pavement markings, signals and any other devices used to regulate, warn or guide traffic. Ensuring uniformity of traffic control devices across the nation – from their messages and placement to their sizes, shapes and colors – helps to reduce crashes and traffic congestion. This is the first comprehensive update to the manual since 2003.

The MUTCD's 2009 edition features many new and updated requirements, ranging from changes in highway signs and bike lanes to the color of high-visibility garments worn by road workers. Most changes are a result of extensive research; however, seven changes stem from recommendations from the National Transportation Safety Board. This is the largest number of NTSB recommendations adopted by the MUTCD at one time.

"Adopting the lessons learned in recent years will help make roads safer

for everyone," said Federal Highway Administrator Victor Mendez.

By requiring better pavement markings which can increase bike lane safety, and extending walk times for pedestrians at crosswalks, the updated MUTCD furthers the "complete streets" concept – an effort long championed by the FHWA to ensure roads accommodate all types of travel, not just automobiles.

Among the other new provisions in the MUTCD:

- Replacing highway signs with brighter, larger and more legible ones that are easier to understand at freeway speeds. States will begin using the newer signs as existing ones wear out.
- Adding different lane markings for lanes that do not continue beyond an intersection or interchange to give drivers more warning that they need to move out of the lane if they don't intend to turn.
- Expanding the use of flashing yellow arrow signals at some intersections to give a clearer indication that drivers can turn left after yielding to any opposing traffic.
- Changing the formula used to calculate crosswalk times to give walkers more time.
- Identifying electronic toll collection lanes with purple signs – the first time purple has been sanctioned for use on highway signs.
- Adding overhead lane-use control signs to reduce confusion among drivers in unfamiliar multi-lane roadways.

For an overview of the new rules and recommendations, visit <http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov>.

Smart, Safe & Sober Partnership
c/o Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police
1606 Santa Rosa Road, Suite 134
Richmond, VA 23288



Smart, Safe & Sober is now on Twitter!
Follow us at <http://twitter.com/SmartSafeSober>

Traffic Safety Calendar

Jan & Feb, 2010	2009 Law Enforcement Challenge Awards Workshops (multiple dates & locations) — www.smartsafeandsober.org/programs/LEC
Feb 1-8, 2010	Super Bowl Sunday Impaired Driving Awareness Campaign: “Fans Don’t Let Fans Drive Drunk” — www.stopimpaireddriving.org
Mar 9-17, 2010	Checkpoint Strikeforce / Buzzed Driving is Drunk Driving: St. Patrick’s Day Impaired Driving Awareness Campaign — www.checkpointstrikeforce.net / www.stopimpaireddriving.org
Mar 15, 2010	2010-2011 DMV Traffic Safety Grant Applications Due — www.dmvnow.com
April, 2010	Alcohol Awareness Month — www.ncadd.org
Apr 11-13, 2010	2010 Lifesavers Conference — Philadelphia, PA — www.lifesaversconference.org
Apr 13-14, 2010	Mid-Atlantic DUI Conference — Virginia Beach, VA — www.vbgov.com/dui
Apr 14-16, 2010	Virginia Sheriffs’ Institute Spring Conference & VSA Exhibition — Roanoke, VA — www.virginiasheriffs.org/vsi
Apr 15, 2010	2009 Law Enforcement Challenge Awards Applications Due to VACP! — www.smartsafeandsober.org/programs/LEC
Apr 19-23, 2010	National Work Zone Awareness Week — http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/wz
Apr 25-May 3, 2010	National SAFE KIDS Week — http://usa.safekids.org
Apr 28, 2010	Distracted Driving Awareness Day — www.drivesmartva.org