

Smart, Safe & Sober

NEWSLETTER



SPRING 2008

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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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'Click It or Ticket' Mini-Mobilization Makes Mega Impact

This March, Virginia law enforcement cracked down on motorists not wearing their seat belts with a special "Click It or Ticket" enforcement mobilization in an effort to save more lives on Virginia's roadways. The goal was simple: save more lives by convincing drivers and passengers to always buckle up — no more warnings, no more excuses. After last year's record-breaking number of traffic fatalities, it was time to get serious about changing people's behavior.

And so far this year, Virginia's experiment with additional stepped-up enforcement efforts appears to be working. By the start of the nationwide "Click It or Ticket" mobilization in May, Virginia's fatalities for the year were down significantly from the same time last year — 48 fewer fatalities in fact. If we can keep this trend going through the heavy summer travel months, Virginia could potentially see the number of fatalities for the year drop below 900.

We also found in our seat belt surveys prior to the start of the May 2008 mobilization that the usage rate was 75.5% — higher than the rate observed prior to the May 2007 mobilization. This increase means that the extra efforts in November and March have had lasting effects on people's behavior and hopefully have served as the boost we need to raise the rate in 2008 to at least 82%.

And finally, it also becomes clear when looking at the results of the March mobilization that increased traffic enforcement has a definite impact beyond that of saving lives on our roadways. Without a doubt, the fugitives apprehended and the weapons seized as a result of traffic stops made entire communities safer.



March 'Click It or Ticket' Mini-Mobilization Results

(Preliminary Numbers)

ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES	TARGET GROUP	ENTIRE GROUP
Agencies Participating	16	68
Seat Belt Citations	327	1630
Child Restraint Citations	40	332
Adult DUI/DUID Arrests	57	448
Underage Drinking Citations	3	40
Underage Drinking Arrests (Zero Tolerance)	2	55
Open Container Citations	0	34
Speeding Citations	1435	8980
Reckless Driving Citations	221	2110
Suspended/Revoked Licenses	200	826
No Operators License	90	1272
Drug Arrests	31	227
Felony Arrests	66	308
Weapons Seized	5	39
Fugitives Apprehended	13	59
Other Traffic Arrest/Citations/Warnings	2061	12466
Child Safety Seat Checks	1	161
Checkpoints	5	73

EDUCATION & MEDIA	TARGET GROUP	ENTIRE GROUP
TV News Stories Aired	4	25
Radio News Stories Aired	3	17
Print News Stories	6	27
Press Conferences/Releases	5	23
Posters, Magnets, Clings, Etc	185	597
Public Service Ads	1	169
School Activities	0	4
Other	43	142



March Madness: Arlington County Police mount a traffic safety 'full-court press'; take on occupant protection, impaired driving and pedestrian safety

"Click it or Ticket" Enforcement Checkpoint

On Wednesday, March 19, 2008, the Arlington County Police Department's Special Operations Section conducted a Driver's License Checkpoint in the Lyon Park neighborhood. Officers cracked down on motorists who were violating traffic laws and who were not wearing their seat belts.

The checkpoint was part of a special "Click it or Ticket" enforcement mobilization during which Arlington officers stepped-up their efforts to convince more drivers to buckle up. The Arlington County Sheriff's Department and the Virginia State Police assisted with the detail and members of the media were invited to cover it.

The detail stopped **943 vehicles** and issued **70 traffic citations**.



St. Patrick's Day Weekend Sobriety Checkpoint

On Saturday, March 15, 2008, the Arlington County Police Department conducted a sobriety checkpoint with assistance from the Arlington County Sheriff's Office and the Virginia State Police. This enforcement effort was in support of Checkpoint Strikeforce, the regional awareness campaign targeting impaired driving.

Officers stopped all vehicles passing through the checkpoint and asked to see the licenses of drivers. Any driver suspected of operating a vehicle while under the influence of drugs or alcohol was directed to a safe area off the roadway for further observation and possible testing for intoxication.

Arlington Police reminded all those who planned on celebrating during the St. Patrick's Day festivities to drink responsibly. Through the media, they emphasized following these easy steps to enjoy a safe St. Patrick's Day:

- Plan a safe way home before the festivities begin.
- Before drinking, designate a sober driver and give that person your keys.
- If you're impaired, use a taxi, call a sober friend or family member, or use public transportation so you are sure to get home safely.
- Call the SoberRide program at 1-800-200-TAXI for a free cab ride home.

In addition to the sobriety checkpoint, Arlington Police also added extra DUI patrols to look for motorists driving under the influence.

Pedestrian Safety Enforcement Detail

On Wednesday, March 26, 2008, the Arlington County Police Department's Special Operations Section conducted a pedestrian safety enforcement detail at four busy intersections. Two of the locations were selected because they are near elementary schools. The other two are along the Columbia Pike corridor, which has a lot of vehicular and pedestrian traffic.

Officers ticketed motorists for speeding and not yielding for students and other pedestrians in crosswalks. They were also on the lookout for walkers and bikers who didn't obey the walk signals and traffic laws. Public service aides were on hand to distribute safety information.

The detail was part of the 2008 "Street Smart Pedestrian, Driver, and Bicyclist Safety Campaign". In support of the campaign, Arlington officers stepped up their pedestrian safety enforcement and education efforts during the month of March.

Virginia Beach High School Conducts “Every 15 Minutes” Anti-Drinking and Driving Awareness Program

“Every 15 Minutes” is a two-day role-playing interactive program involving junior and senior students and their parents. Students learn the results of their decisions in dealing with teenage drinking, personal safety, and making mature decisions when lives are involved. This award winning anti-drinking and driving awareness program was conducted at First Colonial High School, on Thursday, March 6, and Friday, March 7, 2008.

On Thursday, 20 pre-selected students were removed from their classes by the “Grim Reaper” and then police officers read those students’ obituaries, which were written by their parents, to the participants’ classes. Additionally, a “mock” driving under the influence accident scene was staged on school grounds where students witnessed injuries and the death of a student as Police, Fire, and Rescue personnel investigated the crash scene. The “driver” went through the actual DUI arrest procedures and a funeral hearse transported the body of the “deceased” student.



The 20 “living dead” students then went on an overnight field trip to visit a hospital trauma unit, a mock court DUI trial, and the city jail. After dinner, they went to their hotel rooms where they wrote a letter to their parents.

On Friday morning, an assembly of students from the senior class watched a music video compiled from footage of students’ reactions to the program. Letters of sensitivity written by the parents to their child and by students to their parents about their tragic untimely death and the effects on their lives were read. By the end of the assembly, there was nothing but tears and dead silence from the audience.

This program was the result of months of coordination by the Virginia Beach Police Department Crime Prevention Unit involving the Police and Fire Departments, Emergency Medical Services, Virginia Beach Public Schools, Virginia Beach Office of the Commonwealth’s Attorney, Sentara Virginia Beach General Hospital, Kellum-Smith and Williams Funeral Home, OceanFront Inn, and Geico Insurance



During the first quarter of 2008, the Chesapeake Police Department conducted six selective enforcement operations, which concentrated on speeding and red light running. A total of 1,111 traffic summonses were issued during these operations and a total of six arrests were made and two handguns recovered.

Officer Justin Tindall is shown here during a red light-running traffic enforcement operation. As vehicles disregarded the red light, he would radio the offense to waiting officers parked nearby. There were 35 summonses issued during a two-hour period.

In addition to the speeding and red light-running operations, department personnel conducted two traffic safety briefs at two of the city's high schools and one traffic safety brief on motorcycle safety to U.S. Navy personnel.



New Highway Signs Remind Motorists to Move Over or Slow Down When Passing Emergency Personnel

RICHMOND — On Wednesday, March 19, dozens of troopers, police officers, deputy sheriffs, fire and emergency services personnel joined Virginia’s Secretary of Public Safety, John W. Marshall, and Colonel W. Steven Flaherty, Superintendent of Virginia State Police, to unveil Virginia’s new Move Over highway signs during a press conference in Bristol, Va. Southwest Virginia is first to receive the 12 feet by 4 feet signs which will be positioned along I-81 and I-77 to welcome drivers as they enter the Commonwealth from Tennessee, West Virginia, and North Carolina. After the unveiling, the Virginia Department of Transportation’s (VDOT) Bristol District will set the three signs in the ground later in the week.

“These signs mark a major step forward in the on-going efforts to alert the public about Virginia’s Move Over law,” said the Honorable John W. Marshall. “This is another tool to educate the community, caution drivers about the law, and to try and keep our law enforcement and emergency personnel safe.”

Virginia is one of 40 states with a Move Over law requiring drivers to change to another travel lane or, when not able to, to slow down when passing emergency personnel stopped out on the road. Violation of the law carries a punishment of up to a \$2,500 fine and/or 12 months in jail.

Nationwide, in the last two years, 15 law enforcement personnel were hit and killed while standing outside of their vehicles.* Last February, Trooper K.S. Chapman was severely injured in Smyth County after a drunk driver smashed into his patrol car, while it was parked on the side of the road. Trooper Chapman was inside his car finishing up a traffic stop on southbound I-81 when the crash occurred. In 2007, three Virginia State troopers were struck within a month of each other by a passing car while working an incident. Thankfully, none of them was seriously hurt.

“This law is intended to save lives,” says Colonel Flaherty. “We can’t stress enough how important it is for drivers to pay attention and to move over or slow down for all emergency personnel stopped on the side of the road.”

For more information regarding the Move Over law, brochures and public service announcements, visit the Virginia State Police Website at <http://www.vsp.virginia.gov>.

* Source: National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund

LOCATION OF VIRGINIA MOVE OVER HIGHWAY SIGNS

- I-77, SB – Mile marker 66.3 (South of the East River Tunnel)
- I-77, NB – Mile marker 1.4
- I-81, NB – Mile marker 1.05

Additional information on “Move Over” laws available at <http://www.vsp.virginia.gov> and <http://www.moveoveramerica.com>.



Operation Air, Land & Speed Enforcement Yields More Than 1,000 Violations on Northern Virginia Interstates

(May 9, 2008) RICHMOND—The most recent traffic safety initiative by Virginia State Police focused exclusively on five highways in Northern Virginia and resulted in more than 1,000 summonses and arrests during the two-day special enforcement of Operation Air, Land & Speed. Virginia State Police troopers saturated 395, 495, 66, the Dulles Toll Road and the Greenway conducting roaming patrols and radar along the entire length of the five roads which took place on Wednesday, May 7, and Thursday, May 8, 2008. Once again, there were no reported highway fatalities during the course of the operation.

Troopers cited motorists for a total of 1,504 violations including:

- 578 for speeding
- 134 for reckless driving
- 3 DUI arrests
- 59 for safety belt violations
- 12 child restraint seat violations
- 9 drug/felonies

This latest traffic safety effort is the third Operation Air, Land & Speed in 2008 and the first time this year the project was conducted in the middle of the week. Almost half the summonses written during the enforcement, approximately 47 percent were for speeding and reckless driving.

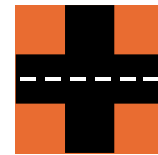
“Speed and reckless driving are two of the primary behaviors for aggressive driving, which the Northern Virginia region sees a substantial amount of in the Commonwealth,” says W. Steven Flaherty, Superintendent of Virginia State Police. “We address these safety issues and target roads through special enforcement projects like Operation Air, Land & Speed because of the numerous complaints and concerns we receive from the citizens. Adding more troopers on the roads, even for a temporary amount of time, helps pro-

mote safer driver behavior which will reduce crashes and save lives.”

The previous enforcement initiative took place in March and stretched across Interstate 81 and Interstate 95. Once again, I-81 and I-95 will be the focus of this special enforcement campaign next month.

The premise of Operation Air, Land & Speed is to keep motorists safe by encouraging proper driving behavior through strict highway enforcement.

The comprehensive enforcement project utilizes troopers, supervisors, motorcycle units and motor carrier troopers. State police operational duties on other interstates, primary and secondary roads are not affected during the operation. Funding for the enforcement campaign is provided through federal highway safety monies.



HIGHWAY SAFETY CHALLENGE

More Proof that Traffic Enforcement IS Law Enforcement



Pirated DVDs Taken Off the Street

GREENSVILLE COUNTY—On March 28, 2008, the Virginia State Police Counter Terrorism and Criminal Interdiction Unit stopped a vehicle for a speeding violation on southbound Interstate 95 in Greenville County. An odor of marijuana led to a probable cause search of the vehicle. As a result of the search, the Troopers recovered 1 gram of marijuana, 3,500 DVD’s with a street value of \$70,000, and 72 pairs of NIKE shoes with a street value of \$7,200

Two individuals were charged with two felonies for the pirated DVD’s and charges on the shoes are pending with the Commonwealth Attorney’s Office.





LEFT: A Coeburn Police Officer gives a motorist a "Buckle Up Award" and a coupon for free pizza for obeying the law and buckling up during the "Operation 58" checkpoint. **RIGHT:** Officers from law enforcement agencies throughout Wise County conduct the "Operation 58" checkpoint.

Wise County Agencies Committed to Reducing Fatal Crashes

A determined county-wide effort is under way in Wise County to address the large number of deaths that have occurred during the first quarter of the year, the majority of which are due to unrestrained drivers and passengers.

A multi-jurisdictional commitment has been reached by all agencies within Wise County to increase saturation patrols and hold multi-jurisdictional checkpoints to get the message to the public.

"Every police agency in Wise County

is committed to a concerted effort to address this issue. We are going to do everything that we can with a team effort to get the message across," stated Chief Willie Stout, Coeburn Police Department.

On April 21, Wise County agencies conducted "Operation 58," a checkpoint on a section of Route 58 within Coeburn, Virginia. Eighteen officers from across the county, along with representatives from the Virginia Highway Safety Office

and the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police, participated in the activity. During the checkpoint, coupons redeemable for food and drinks from businesses within Wise County were handed out to drivers and passengers who were bucked up.

Any visitor traveling into Wise County on Route 58 would find it difficult to miss the message about buckling up — you cannot drive more than a mile without seeing a sign in the median stating, "Click It or Ticket".

"Operation Kids" Child Safety Seat Classes Held in Abingdon, Vinton

This spring, Don Allen, Technician Instructor for the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police, conducted two "Operation Kids" child passenger safety classes southwest Virginia — in Abingdon from April 22-23 and in Vinton from May 5-6.

Sixteen police officers from Abingdon, Clintwood, Saltville, and Richlands and Sheriff's deputies from the Bland and Washington County Sheriff's Offices participated in the Abingdon training. Following the two-day classroom training session, a two-hour seat checking event was held at the Abingdon Police Department on Wednesday, April 23 to give participants hand-on instruction and experience. Class participants were able to inspect seats and assist parents and care providers with proper installation of their child safety seats. Twelve seats were inspected by the class during the event.

Another sixteen officers and dispatchers from the Roanoke region attended the class in Vinton in May. Again, a seat check event was held at the end of the two-day classroom instruction to give participants hands-on experience checking and installing child safety seats.





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.

From January through May, 2008, the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police recognized twenty individuals for making the lifesaving decision to buckle up. Two of these individuals' stories are shared below.

Don Allen, Law Enforcement Liaison for the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police, presented **Patricia Altice** with the Saved by the Belt Award during the March regular session of the Vinton Town Council.

Patricia was involved in a crash December 28, 2007 at 5:20 PM in the Town of Vinton when she was struck head-on by a drunk driver while headed home from work that evening. Mrs. Altice stated that she was being extra careful that evening thinking that, since it was a holiday season, drunks would be out on the roadways.

"It happened to me anyway," she stated. "Goes to show you, it could happen to anyone. I'm just glad I was wearing my seatbelt".

Patricia received minor injuries in the crash and contributes this to the use of her safety belt system and her vehicle airbag. She stated that since the crash, she is afraid to drive alone at night unless someone is with her.

"I had my son come with me tonight so I would have someone with me, driving home after dark from here."



On May 5, 2008, **Mrs. Margaret Roach** received the Saved by the Belt Award during a short ceremony in Vinton, Virginia.

Mrs. Roach was involved in a head-on crash on March 12, 2008 when the driver of second vehicle failed to see her as he pulled from a private parking lot onto Chestnut Street within the Town of Vinton.

Mayor Bard Grose presented the award to Mrs. Roach along with Chief Herb Cooley, Lieutenant Benjamin Cook, and Don Allen, Law Enforcement Liaison for the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police.

"I was lucky. If I hadn't been wearing my seatbelt, I probably would have gone through the window," stated Mrs. Roach after receiving the award.



Pictured, L to R: Vinton Police Chief Herb Cooley, Mrs. Margaret Roach, Lt. Benjamin Cook, Mayor Brad Grose, and Don Allen.

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 website — www.smartsafeandsober.org/programs/.



Nation's Premiere Transportation Safety Conference Draws Nearly 2,000 to Scenic Portland

The 2008 Lifesavers Conference convened on Sunday, April 13, 2008 in Portland, Oregon. With Mount Hood looming in the background, approximately 1,900 attendees from 49 states, the District of Columbia, and seven other countries met at the Oregon Convention Center to attend the premiere national conference on highway safety priorities.

Over the course of three days, attendees listened to the latest research on motorcyclists, adult and child occupant protection, older drivers, teen drivers, and alcohol-related crashes. They also visited with more than 100 vendors from across the country — including five from Virginia — that provided them with information on educational materials and products available to them.

Among the many highlights of the conference was the NHTSA Public Service Awards, awarded to individuals whose dedication and passion for traffic safety saves lives on our nation's roadways. Two Virginians — **Master Police Officer Jesse F. Bowman** of the Fairfax County Police Department and **Phillip W. Haseltine**, retired President of the Automotive Coalition for Traffic Safety — were recognized at the ceremony. *(See additional information next page.)*

Mark your calendars now to attend this premiere conference next year! **The 2009 Lifesavers Conference will be held March 30-April 1, 2009 in Nashville, Tennessee** at the Gaylord Opryland Hotel.

NOTE: Handouts from the workshops are available to everyone online at <http://www.lifesaversconference.org/workshops.html>



NHTSA Presents Awards for Safety Achievements and Public Service at 2008 Lifesavers Conference

Two from Virginia are recognized

PORTLAND, OR – The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) honored 14 individuals and groups from across the nation for their achievements in highway safety at the 26th Annual Lifesavers conference, April 14, 2008. U.S. Transportation Secretary Mary E. Peters recognized the dedication of the awardees while saying that more work remains to be done to reduce traffic deaths and injuries across the country.

“We are committed to building on the momentum of progress in our shared fight to save lives on America’s highways,” Secretary Peters said. “The outstanding efforts of these dedicated safety groups, lawmakers and citizens have helped focus attention on the problems associated with non-seatbelt use and impaired driving that have resulted in far too many tragedies on our roadways.”

NHTSA presented public service awards to 14 individuals and organizations, as follows:

- **Master Police Officer Jesse F. Bowman, Fairfax County Police Department, Fairfax, VA**, in recognition of exemplary service as a law enforcement leader in the fight against impaired driving.
- **Philip W. Haseltine, President (Retired), Automotive Coalition for Traffic Safety (ACTS), Arlington, VA**, in recognition of personal dedication, accomplishments, and national leadership in improving the safety of all motor vehicle occupants, especially child passengers.

Philip W. Haseltine

President (Retired)
Automotive Coalition
for Traffic Safety (ACTS)
Arlington, Virginia



Master Police Officer Jesse F. Bowman

Fairfax County
Police Department
Fairfax, Virginia



- **Senator Margaret Carter, Oregon State Senate, Portland, OR**, in recognition of leadership as an advocate for highway safety issues in the Oregon State Legislature.
- **Lee Cohen, Assistant State Attorney in Charge of the County Court Division Office of the State Attorney, 17th Judicial Circuit, Broward County, Fort Lauderdale, FL**, in recognition of dedication, leadership, and commitment to removing impaired drivers from the highways through effective prosecution and public advocacy.
- **Martha Collar (posthumous), Childhood Injury Prevention Manager, Oklahoma Department of Health, Oklahoma SAFE KIDS Coalition, Oklahoma City, OK**, in recognition of a remarkable career and an inspiring passion dedicated to protecting child passengers in the State of Oklahoma.
- **Robert Crane, M.D., Chair, Mothers Against Drunk Driving, Ohio Regional Operations Council, Columbus, OH**, in recognition of leadership and for championing efforts to reduce impaired driving crashes throughout Ohio.
- **William Elliott, Founder, The John R. Elliott Foundation, The HERO Campaign, Egg Harbor Township, NJ**, in recognition of dedication to eliminating impaired driving on our roadways and your leadership in expanding designated driver programs through the HERO Campaign.
- **Nadine Milford, Citizen Advocate, Albuquerque, NM**, in recognition of dedication and determination to prevent drunk driving through many years of educating government leaders and New Mexico’s motoring public.
- **New Mexico DWI Leadership Team, New Mexico Department of Transportation, Santa Fe, NM**, in recognition of the Leadership Team’s role in building a comprehensive statewide impaired driving system and reducing the number of drunk driving deaths.
- **Simera Reynolds, Executive Director, Nebraska Mothers Against Drunk Driving, Lincoln, NE**, in recognition of efforts to establish Nebraska’s Drunk Driving Task Force and the State’s MADD organization to fight impaired driving.
- **Judge Douglas J. Saloom, City and Juvenile Court of Lafayette, Lafayette, LA**, in recognition of accomplishments in promoting traffic safety from a judicial perspective.
- **Senator Christine Savage, Maine State Senator, Union, ME**, in recognition of leadership in the successful effort to enact a primary seat belt law in the State of Maine, which was signed into law on April 30, 2007.
- **Representative David Schapira, Arizona House of Representatives, Tempe, AZ**, in recognition of dedication to stopping DUI and saving lives in Arizona through the introduction and passage of legislation requiring ignition interlocks for all convicted drunk drivers.
- **Utah Eliminating Alcohol Sales to Youth (E.A.S.Y.) Program, Departments of Alcoholic Beverage Control, Human Services, and Public Safety, Salt Lake City, UT**, in recognition of its innovative, collaborative approach to addressing underage consumption of alcohol and its impact on traffic safety in the State of Utah.

Old, Used, Borrowed & Abused Child Safety Seat Roundup

This February, DRIVE SMART Hampton Roads, in partnership with AAA, the Children's Hospital of the King's Daughters, Wal-Mart, and WVEC Channel 13, conducted an event to round-up old and abused child safety seats. The Child Safety Seat Roundup has been held in the Hampton Roads area for several years.

Any time during the month of February, anyone could bring a seat that was older than eight years old, purchased or received secondhand, or previously involved in an accident to a designated drop-off location and receive a \$5.00 reward. On March 11, the collected seats were crushed and disposed of, preventing future use.

Many people are unaware that these "old, used and abused" seats are unsafe for transporting their children, so this event also serves to educate the public about their possible dangers. Seats that have been in an accident, for example, may look fine, but they have been subjected to crash forces that could have weakened or damaged the seat in ways not visible to the naked eye. This weakened state makes them unreliable in future crashes — once a seat has protected its occupant in a crash, it has done its job.

Seats bought second-hand are also a risk because they may be missing parts or may have been stored in a place where excessive heat could have weakened the plastic, making them more vulnerable in the event of a crash. Older or secondhand seats may also have been recalled by the manufacturer for a defect or other problem.

While a free or cheap secondhand seat may seem like a great deal in tough financial times, a good quality, properly installed new seat can be purchased for less than \$100 and provide priceless protection for a child in a crash. And for those families who truly cannot afford the cost of a child safety seat, the Virginia Department of Health has a program that distributes free seats to eligible families (<http://www.vahealth.org/civp/safetyseat/safetyseatdistribution.asp>).



WANTED
Old, Used, Borrowed and Abused
Child Safety Seats

Is your safety seat:
★ over eight years old?
★ from a yard sale or thrift store?
★ involved in an accident?

Safety seats that are old, used, borrowed or abused may harm your child in a crash.
During the month of **February 2008**, drop off that old seat at any location below for a

\$5 REWARD

2008 DROP-OFF LOCATIONS:
Limit two seats per person

- Wal-Mart Supercenters
- DMV Customer Service Centers in Hampton Roads
- AAA Offices in Hampton Roads

For more information call (757) 498-2562

The Old, Used, Borrowed & Abused Child Safety Seat Roundup is presented by



VDH Coordinates 47 Child Safety Seat Check Events in 2007

The Virginia Department of Health, Division of Injury and Violence Prevention (DIVP) partnered and/or coordinated 47 community child safety seat check events during 2007. A total of 646 seats were inspected at these events. Of the safety seat checklist forms that were submitted to DIVP for analysis, 52% were found to be installed incorrectly. The misuse was corrected and education provided to parents potentially saving the lives of 303 children.

These events would not be possible without the hard work of partners throughout the state. The following is a list of those who contributed to the success of the seat check events during 2007:

Safe Kids Virginia, Virginia State Police, Fort Lee Police, Safe Kids Tri-Cities chapter, Prince George Police Department, Prince George Fire Department, New Kent County Sheriff's Department, Gloucester County Sheriff's Department, Richmond Fire Department, Richmond Police Department, Fairfax City Police Department, Colonial Heights Fire and EMS, Colonial Heights Police Department, Colonial Heights Sheriff's Department, City of Bedford Police Department, Lynchburg Police Department, Lynchburg Fire Department, Lynchburg Sheriff's Department, Amherst County Sheriff's Department, Campbell County Sheriff's Office, Floyd County Sheriff's Department, Petersburg Fire Department, Henrico County Police Department, Hanover Fire Department, Portsmouth Fire Department, Wise County Police Department, Wise County Sheriff's Department and The Playroom.

If you are interested in conducting a community safety seat check please contact Tobey Anne Allen at (804)-8647744 or tobey.allen@vdh.virginia.gov.

Child Passenger Safety Permanent Fitting Stations

The Virginia Department of Health, Division of Injury and Violence Prevention (DIVP) has partnered with various public health, law enforcement, healthcare, fire and EMS agencies to develop a network of locations around the State that are accessible by the public to check the installation of child safety seats.

Trained personnel at these locations check the installation of the seat and identify any manufacturer's recalls as well as correct any installation problems found. Many of these agencies incorporate inspections into their regular duties as a courtesy to their communities. This program provides communities with an important service, and provides those agencies involved the opportunity to network and create new partnerships. DIVP supports these stations by providing funding opportunities for the necessary supplies to inspect child safety seats.

Currently there are 108 stations throughout the state. Contact information for each of these locations is provided at www.safetysseatva.org. For more information about this program or to learn how your agency can become a Permanent Fitting Station contact Tobey Anne Allen at (804)-8647744 or tobey.allen@vdh.virginia.gov.

2008 Injury Prevention Symposium

Are you involved in the prevention, first response, treatment or rehabilitation of injuries? Then join us July 22-23 for this unique opportunity to network and learn more about your role in the prevention of the leading injuries in Virginia. Preliminary topics for the Symposium include:

- Unveiling of the five-year Virginia Injury Prevention Plan, addressing the leading causes of injury hospitalization and death in the Commonwealth;
- Workshops on national, state and local injury prevention strategies that exemplify best or promising practices;
- Recognition of innovative injury prevention projects; and,
- Opportunities to share information and resources.

Visit www.vahealth.org/civp or call (804) 864-7734 for Symposium updates and registration information. Lodging and travel scholarships available.

Save the Date!
2008 Injury Prevention Symposium
July 22, 2008—July 23, 2008
Richmond, Virginia
Symposium Sponsored by the Division of Injury and Violence Prevention,
Virginia Department of Health

Virginia CODES

Crash Outcome Data Evaluation System



Virginia Motor Vehicle Crash Outcomes *ONLINE* at www.vacodes.org

Virginians can find motor vehicle crash information at www.vacodes.org. The website has local and statewide reports on crashes from 2001-2006 including the causes, injuries, severity and hospital care.

The website features **Crash Facts** printer-ready flyers, **Ready-to-Use** reports and a **Create-a-Report** tool. Many aspects of crashes are detailed such as:

- What caused the crash?
- What type of vehicle was involved?
- What were the injury/fatality rates?
- Were excessive speed or alcohol factors in the crash?
- Information for the entire state or by select city or county
- What were the gender and age groups of those involved?
- What were the weather conditions at the crash?

The information includes reports on the severity of crash injuries, hospital charges and death rates. All information is available to the public to support education, transportation safety programs and legislation within Virginia.

“The Virginia CODES website puts the **facts at your fingertips** on the causes, injuries and hospital care from motor vehicle crashes” notes Michael T. Lundberg, Executive Director of Virginia Health Information, a partner in the Virginia CODES Program.

Virginia’s CODES program is made possible through a Cooperative Agreement between the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA) and the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles’ Highway Safety Office. Other partners include:

- Virginia Department of Health – Office of Emergency Medical Services
- Virginia Department of Health – Virginia Center for Health Statistics
- Virginia Health Information-a nonprofit health information company
- INOVA Regional Trauma Center

Visit www.vacodes.org to access and use this information. You may also call 1-877-VHI-INFO or email info@vacodes.org for assistance or to answer your questions.

Vienna Police Department Participate in James Madison High School 'Sticker Shock' Campaign

This sticker shock is not about buying a car...

It's about buying alcohol and warning adults that it is illegal to purchase and provide it to underage persons.

The Town of Vienna Police Department along with students from James Madison High School participated in "Project Sticker Shock" on Saturday, February 2, 2008.

The officers and students visited participating stores and placed stop sign stickers that display a warning message about the penalties for providing alcohol to anyone under 21 on beer cases, wine coolers, and other alcoholic products that might appeal to



young drinkers. By participating in this project, underage persons throughout the state along with the Vienna Police Department are taking a proactive stand against underage drinking and its related problems.

Sticker Shock Action Plan

- Obtain Support: youth, parents, police, local officials, beer distributors
- Identify local alcohol licensees
- Develop local media plan
- Implement the Sticker Shock Project
- Celebrate and recognize participants
- Evaluate

Sticker Shock's History

The Education Section of the Virginia Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control adapted the project in the summer of 2002. The program is modeled after the "Guide for Statewide Sticker Shock Project" developed by the Pennsylvania



Liquor Control Board and "A Handbook for youth and community groups for implementation of Project Sticker Shock" developed by the Maine Office of Substance Abuse.

December 2002 was the first pilot test in the selected Virginia communities which included Vienna, Virginia. Spring 2003 was the official statewide release for all of Virginia's communities to promote and support the Zero Tolerance for Underage Drinking message. The program has grown in participation and popularity ever since.

New Study Finds Five Factors Linked to Deaths of Young Drivers

A study released by the National Cooperative Highway Research Program finds that young drivers continue to die at higher rates than any other age group. The report lists five key facts and contributing factors.

- **Deadliest Time:** Among 16 year old drivers, the risk of a fatal crash is about three times higher after 9 p.m. than during daytime.
- **Alcohol Factor:** Alcohol involved crashes increase from low rates among 16 year olds to a peak for drivers aged 20 to 24.
- **Lack of Supervision:** Drivers 18 and older are more likely to live outside the family home. This results in them driving more and having fewer protective constraints on their time and driving.
- **Risk Factor:** While 15 to 20 year olds represented 8.4 percent of the U.S. population and 6.3 percent of licensed drivers, they accounted for 13.6 percent of the drivers involved in fatal crashes.
- **Passenger Risk:** Young drivers especially 16 and 17 year olds are responsible for a larger number of passenger injuries and fatalities per crash than more experienced drivers. More than half of all fatalities occur when there is no adult is in the vehicle.

Nationally in 2003, 6,424 teens between the ages of 15 and 20 years old were killed in motor vehicle crashes (CDC, 2006).

Although 15 to 20 year-olds represented 8.4 percent of the United States population and 6.3 percent of licensed drivers, they accounted for 13.6 percent of drivers involved in fatal motor vehicle crashes and 18 percent of drivers in police-reported crashes (NHTSA, 2005). The economic cost of crashes involving young drivers amounts to nearly 41 billion dollars a year (NHTSA, 2004).

In 2006, Indiana crash statistics indicated there were 820 fatal crashes resulting in 902 fatalities. Of those, 209 fatal crashes involved teens between 15 and 20 years old and resulted in 247 fatalities or approximately 25%. While the 2007 Indiana crash statistics are still provisional and there is an indication of a decrease in total fatalities, the percentage of teen fatalities compared to the number of total fatalities remains virtually unchanged.

Parents should know where their young drivers are going and when they will be home. Know who their passengers are and above all make sure they BUCKLE UP.

More statistics on Indiana drivers may be found at the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute website at <http://www.in.gov/cji> or if you would like to read the complete report by the National Cooperative Highway Research Program, please visit the Transportation Research Board web site at http://www.trb.org/news/blurb_detail.asp?id=8493.

Multi-Jurisdictional Checkpoint Held at Virginia Tech

The Virginia Tech Police Department, in conjunction with the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office, Blacksburg Police Department, Christiansburg Police Department and the Virginia State Police, conducted a sobriety checkpoint on March 14, 2008 on the Virginia Tech campus. Two sites were selected — Washington Street and West Campus Drive, both on the Virginia Tech campus, with approximately thirty police officers from the five agencies participating.

Captain J.C. Albert, Virginia Tech Police Department Operations Division, released the following results from the checkpoints:

VEHICLES CHECKED	
Washington Street	383
West Campus Drive	286
Total Vehicles Checked	669

CHARGES / ARRESTS	
Possession of marijuana with intent to distribute	2
Possession with intent to distribute while on school property	1
Possession of marijuana	1
Possession of alcohol	4
Driving under the influence (DUI)	8
Drunk in public	2
Reckless driving (excessive occupants)	1
Various traffic violations	42
Seat belt violations	4
Total Charges / Arrests	65



ABOVE: Sergeant Scott Poff, Virginia Tech PD Site Operations Supervisor, conducts the pre-operation briefing with the officers assigned to assist in the two checkpoints on the Virginia Tech campus.

BELOW: Officers assigned to the checkpoints are instructed on the operation plans and checkpoint site responsibilities.



Vienna Police Officers Honored for D.U.I. Enforcement



Sergeant Tony Clingerman (left) and MPO Jarod Evans.

On May 16, 2008 Sergeant Tony Clingerman and Master Police Officer Jarod Evans were honored for their enforcement actions against impaired drivers. The Virginia Alcohol Safety Action Program (V.A.S.A.P.) in Fairfax County and Mothers Against Drunk Driving (M.A.D.D.) held an awards ceremony at the Tysons Westpark Hotel in McLean, Virginia. The Annual Awards for Excellence in Community Service and Safety honored many local police officers and deputy sheriffs from various agencies for their efforts to combat drunk driving.

Every year since 1991 M.A.D.D. and V.A.S.A.P. have honored area law enforcement officers for their efforts in enforcing the drunken driving laws, as well as other individuals that play an important role in their prosecution. The Master of Ceremonies was Mr. Bob Marbourg from WTOP News.

Sergeant Tony Clingerman lead the Vienna Police Department in D.U.I. arrests for 2007.

Sergeant Clingerman is a two-time recipient of this award and enforcement of the D.U.I. statutes is his passion. His wife and two children also attended the event.

MPO Evans is an Intoxilyzer Instructor for the Commonwealth of Virginia as well as an aggressive enforcer of the D.U.I. laws. In his instructor capacity MPO Evans trains other police officers in the operation of the breathalyzer equipment which reads the level of alcohol in an individual's blood. The instrument is strategically located in the area and MPO Evans performs tests for other agencies at Vienna Police Headquarters in addition to his regular duties.



Ninth Annual Mid-Atlantic DUI Conference: Another Huge Success!

The 9th Annual Mid-Atlantic DUI Conference in Virginia Beach went off without a hitch. The conference, hosted by the Virginia Beach Police Department from March 18-19, had over 370 registered attendees from nine different states. Chief James E. McLaughlin from the California Highway Patrol was the keynote speaker. He reassured attendees that their effort in DUI enforcement was saving lives.

The two-day conference covered topics such as "Recognizing Drug Impairment", checkpoints, SFST, "Prosecuting DUI Fatality Cases", and several other important topics. A number of officers went back to their organization with a free RADAR or PBT that was donated as a giveaway by sponsors of the conference.

The conference, sponsored by Anheuser-Busch, has been providing low-cost, progressive DUI training to officers in the Mid-Atlantic region for the past nine years.

Next year's conference is scheduled for **March 24-25, 2009**. Watch for more information in November, 2008 at <http://www.vbgov.com/dui>.

Send Us Your 2008 Photos!

We are now collecting photos of traffic safety activities for use in the 2009 Smart, Safe & Sober Calendar!

Photos are needed of checkpoints, traffic stops, educational events, child safety seat checks, young drivers, motorcycle riders, commercial motor vehicle inspections, red-light running enforcement and more! If it is related to traffic safety, send it in!

We do request that photos be high-resolution files (please don't size them down for email!) and that they be taken either in 2007 or 2008. **Email them to Erin Schrad at erin@vachiefs.org or mail a CD (see address, page 2).**



Virginia Western Only Community College In The State To Have A Student Police Academy Program

Program expands in 2008 to include Roanoke College students

ROANOKE, VA — The Student Police Academy (SPA) at Virginia Western Community College capitalizes on relationships between law enforcement and college-aged students educating them about law enforcement and alcohol abuse, and its potentially devastating consequences. The program also addresses problems associated with addiction.

“The key goal of this program is to promote alcohol awareness and education by increasing student involvement that should lead to preventing or reducing the occurrence of underage/ binge drinking and impaired driving among college students,” said Craig Harris, Chief of Campus Police at Virginia Western. “Additionally, we hope to provide students with a working knowledge of the Campus Police Department’s personnel, policies, goals and objectives.”

The program does this by meeting weekly with students and using a multimedia approach of lectures, videos, Power Point presentations and personal experience to teach safety. For example, on March 3, The Roanoke Valley Regional Crash Investigations Team will show students what the team does after a fatal alcohol-related accident. At this particular presentation, students also get to wear goggles that simulate impaired judgment caused by drinking. “Students will also have the opportunity to get up close and personal with a vehicle that has been involved in a crash. This car shows the damaging effects from various types of impacts and forces,” said Harris.

Introduced at Virginia Western in spring 2007, the SPA this year expanded to include Roanoke College students as a potential target audience, and to extend the reach of the message. Of the 10 students currently enrolled in the class, one is from Roanoke College.

“This course provides an invaluable service to the community. It empowers the student with applicable knowledge that is useful in real life applications, such as spotting the signs of underage alcohol abuse,” said Shera Sherertz a 2007 Student Police Academy graduate, who



is taking the class again this year. “This class is highly recommended, with varied topics from general law enforcement to topics with a focus on underage alcohol abuse,” she said.

The Virginia Crime Commission considers it ‘best practice’ for every college to establish a Student Police Academy as stated in the Virginia General Legislation Information System, (House document #36, HJU-122 Final Report: Study on Campus Security, February, 2006). “Virginia Tech has offered a successful Student Police Academy program since fall 2004 and is the only university in the Commonwealth that currently offers such a program. Virginia Western is the only community college in the Commonwealth to offer this program to students,” said Harris.

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention through the Virginia Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control fund the SPA program. Courses began February 18 and continue through March 31.

Virginia Western Community College is a two-year public institution of higher education operating under a statewide



system of community colleges. The College operates under the policies established by the State Board for Community Colleges and the Virginia Western Community College Board. It offers day, evening, and weekend classes on a 70-acre campus located in Southwest Roanoke as well as at off-campus locations in the area. The College was established in 1966 and has grown from an initial enrollment of 1,352 to its current enrollment of over 12,500 students.

Fewer People Injured in Highway Crashes Every Year, U.S. Secretary of Transportation Mary E. Peters Announces

But cautions that too many teens are still getting injured in crashes; Announces new teen driving safety measures

(May 13, 2008) SEVERNA PARK, Md.—The number of people injured in crashes on our nation's highways has declined every year since 1995, Transportation Secretary Mary E. Peters announced today, noting that there were 4.8 percent fewer injuries in 2006 (2,575,000) than in 2005. The trend also extends to teenaged drivers, who achieved a more than 6 percent decline from 2005 to 2006.

Still, the new data released today by the U.S. Department of Transportation indicates that teen injuries make up more than 16 percent of overall crash-related injuries, even though they represent only 8 percent of the driving public, Peters noted after meeting with the Severna Park Senior High School chapter of Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD).

"In the test of life, teenage drivers are failing at twice the rate as the rest of us. That's a safety grade none of us is willing to accept," Peters said. "Just as you hit the books to turn things around in class, we're going to redouble our efforts to make our roads safer and our teenagers healthier."

To help improve teen road safety, Peters announced a nationwide competition to develop the next generation of advertising

and educational materials with a fresh focus to encourage teenagers to drive safely. The winning campaign will receive \$5,000 and broad distribution to where it can do the most good with the help of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

She also announced that the Department of Transportation will award \$300,000 each to two states to promote seat belt use in their local communities through creative and highly visible law enforcement efforts. And she said two states would each be awarded \$100,000 to help combat drunk driving through the use of promising technologies for impaired driving offenders that would disable a vehicle if the driver is legally impaired.

Applications are due June 30, 2008.

"You are not invincible," Peters said to a group of 50 juniors and seniors at Severna Park Senior High School. "Take your driving seriously. Put down your cell phone and stop text messaging. You can get back to your friends once you've turned off the ignition, but you can never get your life back."

For more information about the injury numbers, the safe driving competition, and the seat belt and technology grants, please visit www.nhtsa.gov.

Nation's Top Vehicle Safety Official Urges 15-Passenger Van Users to Drive with Caution this Summer

(May 13, 2008) New research from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has found June through August to be the deadliest time of year for 15-passenger van occupants, due to rollover crashes. Statistics show that 31 percent of fatal rollovers involving 15-passenger vans occur during the busy summer travel months.

NHTSA Administrator Nicole R. Nason is urging all 15-passenger van users to take appropriate safety precautions when taking to the road during this busy travel season.

"The last thing we want is a summer outing to turn into a tragic memory,"

Nason said.

NHTSA data shows a significant increase in rollover risk when the van is fully loaded with drivers and passengers. In 2006, 50 percent of occupant fatalities that occurred were in vans that were fully loaded. Fifty-nine percent of those killed were unbelted.

Other factors that contribute to rollover incidents include improperly inflated tires, poor tire condition and inexperienced drivers. Owners should follow manufacturers' recommendations for replacing old tires because tires may become less safe after a certain period of time, even if they have adequate tread

and proper inflation.

"For a safe trip buckle up, check the tire pressure and make sure an experienced driver is behind the wheel before heading out on the roads this summer," said Nason.

Overall statistics show the number of deaths in 15-passenger van rollover crashes has been declining steadily since 2001. However, these vehicles still pose a safety risk to occupants, claiming the lives of 58 people in accidents in 2006.

To view the report, go to: <http://www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/Pubs/810947.PDF>

For more information about 15-passenger van safety, visit www.safercar.gov.

Traffic Safety Calendar

- May 12 – Jun 8, 2008 **Click It or Ticket National Mobilization** — www.smartsafeandsobber.org
- Jun 1-7, 2008 **Smooth Operator Wave I** — www.smoothoperatorprogram.com
- Jun 11-13, 2008 **2008 Annual Conference on Transportation Safety (ACTS)** — Portsmouth, VA — www.actsconference.org
- Jun 22 – Jul 6, 2008 **Checkpoint Strikeforce 4th of July Impaired Driving Enforcement Campaign** — www.checkpointstrikeforce.net
- Jul 6-12, 2008 **Smooth Operator Wave II** — www.smoothoperatorprogram.com
- Aug 3-9, 2008 **Smooth Operator Wave III** — www.smoothoperatorprogram.com
- Aug 3-9, 2008 **National Stop on Red Week** — www.stopredlightrunning.com
- Aug 13 – Sep 1, 2008 **Checkpoint Strikeforce Impaired Driving National Enforcement Crackdown** — www.checkpointstrikeforce.net
- Aug 17-20, 2008 **Va. Assn. of Chief of Police Annual Conference** — The Homestead • Hot Springs, VA — www.vachiefs.org
The 2007 VA Law Enforcement Challenge Awards will be presented at the VACP Conference.
- Aug 31 – Sep 6, 2008 **Smooth Operator Wave IV** — www.smoothoperatorprogram.com