

Smart, Safe & Sober



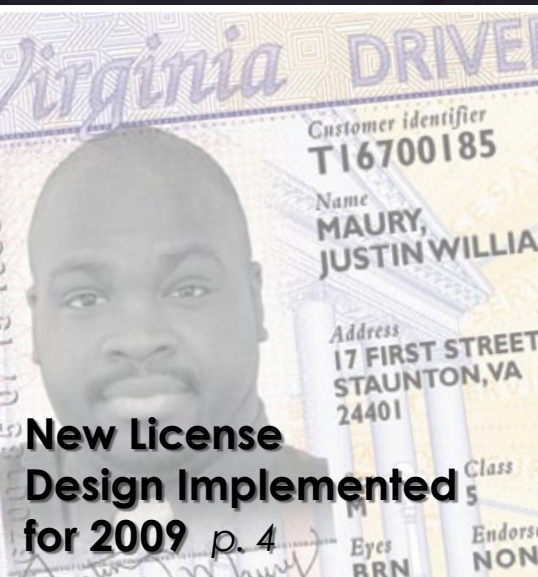
NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2009

www.smartsafeandsober.org



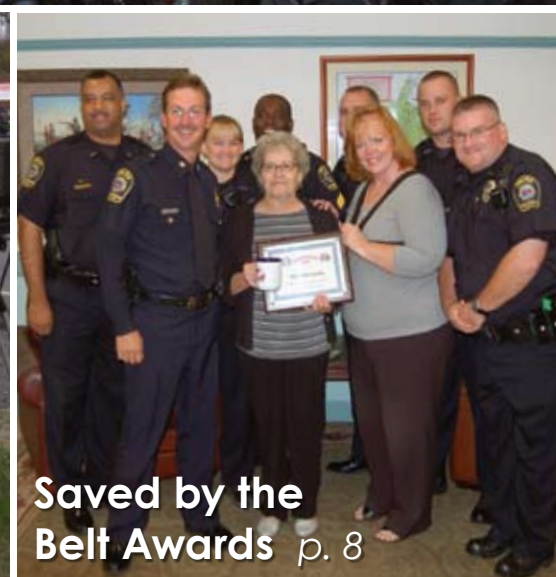
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Smart, Safe & Sober

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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Current Seat Belt Usage Rate Highest in Virginia History

by Mary Ann Rayment

Statewide Occupant Protection Coordinator
Virginia Highway Safety Office

The 2008 seat belt usage rate is in and it's the highest the Commonwealth has seen — 80.6%!

We have gone through many changes over the years and, most recently, the Highway Safety Office looked at the survey that we have been using and discovered that it had not been updated in ten years. After working with The Preusser Research Group and reviewing the survey methodology, it was discovered that we had not made any changes for population shift over the years. Additionally, we will continue to review elements of *Click It or Ticket* and other occupant protection programs for message delivery, updates and changes that will make these programs more effective.

It is also important to take a step back and review how far we have come as a state. When Virginia began *Click It or Ticket* in earnest in 2003, the state had a seat belt usage rate of 74.6%. In the past five years, Virginia law enforcement officers and traffic safety advocates have all had a part in increasing the seat belt usage rate by six percentage points to the 80.6% we are currently enjoying. The law enforcement community has so completely stepped up to the challenge that more than a half million seat belt summonses have been written over the last few years. While it is certainly not all about writing tickets, it is because of these types of efforts that 325,990 more people are using seat belts today than in 2003.

Now it's not all "sunshine and roses" for us. Unfortunately, Virginia has not yet seen a significant drop in the number of unbelted fatalities. Some of that can be attributed to "unsurvivable" crashes, but many of the fatalities still could be prevented by the simple act of buckling up. We must remain committed to continuing the effort to achieve our goal of 85%, and that is going to require a lot of work from all of us.

What will the New Year bring? The Highway Safety Office will continue to review program elements to make them more effective. One exciting thing is the establishment of a Statewide Occupant Protection Committee as well as a Statewide Child Occupant Protection Committee. These committees will hopefully enable the Highway Safety Office to better serve the entire law enforcement community as well as the citizens of Virginia.

Highway Safety Office staff also may be coming to some of your communities to have you work with us more specifically with some focus groups and different approaches to *Click It or Ticket* and other seat belt/child safety seat messages and programs. We will be looking at executing some more "mini-mobilizations" along with the big May Mobilization to keep the law enforcement message in the forefront of our efforts.

All in all, Virginia's traffic safety community has been very successful over the last five years and the Highway Safety Office at DMV wants to thank everyone involved for their effort, their commitment and the energy with which they approach their jobs everyday. We could not succeed without you on "our team" everyday.

Please, continue to share your ideas for improvement, ask for materials, share your successes and please, please, please, buckle yourselves up on every ride!

DMV Implements New License Design, Issuance Process

Risk for fraud, ID theft reduced

(November 25, 2008) RICHMOND— Virginians will soon have the safest, most secure driver's licenses and ID cards in the U.S. In 2009, the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) will implement newly designed driver's licenses and ID cards and a new issuance process.

The cards will have a new look and state-of-the-art security features. Cards will be issued from a central location using technology that is more advanced than printers in DMV offices.

"The new driver's licenses and ID cards will be the most secure and trusted state-issued credentials in the nation," said DMV Commissioner D.B. Smit. "The enhanced security will reduce the risks for fraud and ID theft."

The most notable of the security features is a clear window, containing a black and white photograph of the cardholder, visible from the front and back of the card. Virginia's will be the third such driver's license worldwide and the first in the U.S. to carry this feature.

Other security features include laser engraved polycarbonate construction, raised lettering and an ultraviolet (UV) feature, among others.

"The driver's licenses and ID cards contain 21 security features used by law enforcement and others who will verify the card's authenticity," said Don Boswell, director of Law Enforcement Services at DMV. "These features make them difficult to counterfeit."

The newly designed cards will, however, maintain some of the current card features. DMV worked closely with law enforcement, retailers, hospitality representatives and others while designing the new licenses and IDs to ensure the cards meet their unique business needs. Adult licenses will remain horizontal and include an outline of the state capitol building. Cards for those under 21 will be vertical and carry images of Virginia's state flower, the dogwood. It will show the dates that the individual turns 18 and 21, to assist retailers curb the illegal sale of tobacco and alcohol to minors.

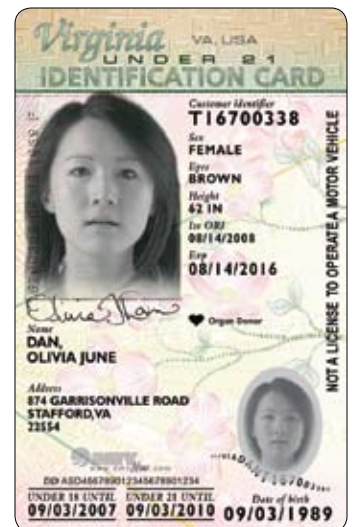
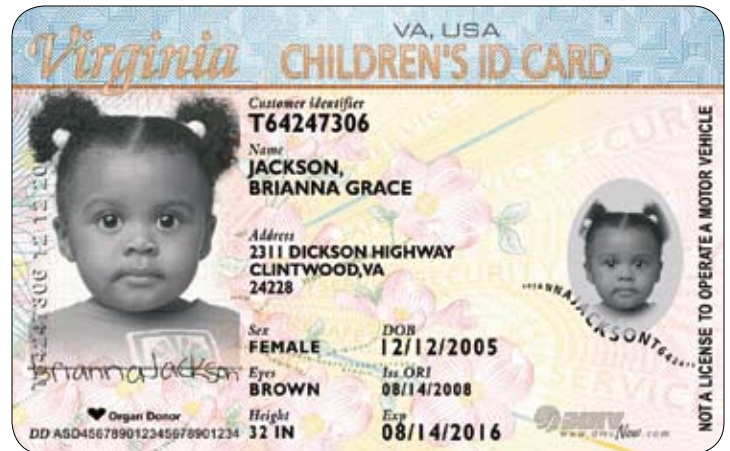
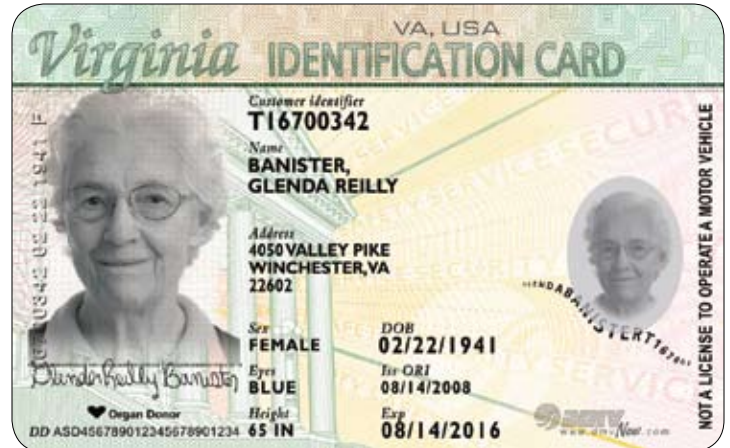
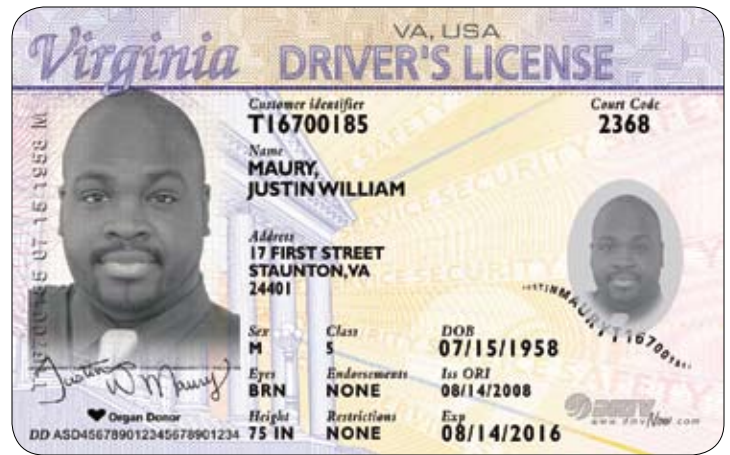
Virginians who apply for driver's licenses at DMV customer service centers will receive temporary driving permits. Licenses will be mailed to their home addresses.

The new issuance process will be similar for Internet transactions. Online customers conduct a transaction, print a receipt and receive their cards through the mail. Eligible customers can continue to renew via Internet (www.dmvNOW.com), telephone and mail.

"Central issuance of driver's licenses and ID cards will reduce the use of false addresses and eliminate the appeal of out-of-state residents to attempt to illegally obtain Virginia licenses," Smit added. "It is essential that customers provide DMV with their current addresses."

Between March and July 2009, customers will begin experiencing the enhanced process and receiving the new secure credentials. Currently issued driver's licenses and ID cards will remain valid until expiration dates.

For more information, visit www.dmvNOW.com.



FEATURED AGENCY: Albemarle County Police Department

Operation Seminole Trail Slowdown

Weeklong enforcement effort to curb speeding on Route 29 results in 296 traffic violations, 3 criminal arrests



(November 24, 2008) The Albemarle County Police Department announces the results of a 1-week traffic enforcement operation (Operation Seminole Trail Slowdown) along Seminole Trail (U.S. Rt. 29) between Hydraulic Road and Airport Road.

A total of 276 vehicles were stopped and 296 summonses issued. Of the 296 total summonses issued, 166 summonses were issued for speeding, 33 for inspection violations, 23 for registration violations, 18 for equipment violations, 12 for unsafe / improper lane changes, 9 for failing to obey a traffic signal, 7 for drivers having a suspended license, 6 for drivers having no operator's license, 5 for seat belt violations, 4 for following too close, 2 for reckless driving by speed, 2 for failing to obey a highway sign, 1 for aggressive driving, and 1 for eluding law enforcement.

Additionally 3 arrests were made for criminal violations (possession of stolen license plates, possession of marijuana, carrying a concealed weapon), 3 vehicles were towed, 2 traffic crashes were investigated, and 3 disabled vehicles were checked.

The highest speed recorded on radar was 80 mph in a 45 mph zone.

The Albemarle County Sheriff's Office provided supplemental



support and assisted with this enforcement project. Most of the overtime funding for this operation was covered by a DMV highway safety grant.

Motorists are encouraged help reduce highway deaths by recognizing and changing unsafe driving behavior. Remember to slow down, buckle up, and drive responsibly.

FEATURED AGENCY: Virginia State Police

Operation Air, Land & Speed Enforcement Yields 8% More Summonses, Arrests on Interstates 64 & 66

2,466 Speeding Summonses, 276 Safety Belt Violations, 4 DUI Arrests



(December 8, 2008) RICHMOND—The Virginia State Police's Operation Air, Land and Speed revisited Interstate 64 and Interstate 66 and produced 5,363 summonses and arrests during the two-day enforcement operation, which took place Friday, Dec. 5, and Saturday, Dec. 6, 2008. The results from this latest traffic safety initiative generated an eight percent increase in the number of summonses issued compared to a previous phase on the same interstates. The last time Operation Air, Land and Speed focused jointly on I-64 and I-66 was in November 2007. Additionally, there were no reported fatalities on either interstate during the course of the operation.

The comprehensive enforcement project produced 3,914 violations along I-64, which stretches 300 miles from Hampton Roads to the West Virginia border. Troop-

ers arrested two drunk drivers and made 22 drug/felony arrests. State police cited 1,783 for speeding, stopped 251 individuals for reckless driving and cited 227 safety belt violations.

Along I-66, which extends 75 miles from Strasburg, Va. to Washington, D.C., state police issued 1,449 summonses and/or arrests. Two drunk drivers were arrested and one drug/felony arrest was made. Troopers cited 683 drivers for speeding and 123 for reckless driving. Also, 49 safety belt citations were issued.

"We have seen great success with the implementation of Operation Air, Land and Speed and it's not just about the statistics or figures it produces," says Colonel W. Steven Flaherty, Virginia State Police Superintendent. "We have heard from the public who say they appreciate the increased patrols and concentrated

enforcement. The visibility of troopers on the interstate has an impact on drivers and how they behave on the interstate. With the holiday season underway, we hope all motorists continue to keep safety in mind and make it a priority on the road."

This is the seventh and final Operation Air, Land and Speed enforcement for 2008, which is intended to prevent crashes, save lives and promote responsible driving behavior through highly visible and aggressive traffic enforcement. More phases of the campaign are planned in 2009.

The latest Operation Air, Land and Speed project is the sixteenth campaign along Virginia's interstates since its inception in 2006. It brings the total number of summonses and arrests to 86,489. Funding for the enforcement initiative is provided through federal highway safety monies.

Roanoke Police Department Utilizes New System to Serve Citizens Involved in Traffic Crashes

(September 30, 2008) In an effort to better serve the community, the Roanoke Police Department will utilize a new system by which citizens involved in traffic crashes and insurance companies representing those citizens can obtain accident reports.

Beginning October 1, 2008, the process will be conducted exclusively online through the use of TRACView. The TRACView system is maintained by the company DOCVIEW, LLC, and is an internet based application that was developed to help law enforcement agencies and insurance companies manage and access traffic accident reports in a more efficient manner.

Through the use of on-line document

management technology, those requesting an accident report are now able to rapidly find and view this report usually within 24 hours of it being scanned, excluding holidays and weekends. The additional benefits to citizens and insurance companies are the following:

- Reports are available from work or home, 24 hours a day via the internet.
- Reports are converted to PDF format making them easy to view, save, print, and e-mail.
- Finding a report takes only a few seconds.
- Reports cannot be modified, maintaining report integrity.
- The system provides clear, high reso-

lution images of each report for optimal viewing and printing.

The cost of obtaining a report through TRACView will be \$10, which is what the Police Department currently charges for copies of accident reports.

Those who do not have access to the internet can still visit the Police Department to obtain copies of their reports. A report verification request, which differs from a request for an accident report will still be handled by citizens calling or visiting the Police Department. The cost of that service is also \$10.

For more information about TRACView and its services visit www.tracview.com.

Arlington County Police Conduct Motorcycle Safety Checkpoint

On Sunday, September 14, officers from Arlington County Police, in conjunction with the U.S. Park Police and the Virginia State Police, conducted a motorcycle safety checkpoint from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on the southbound lanes of the George Washington Memorial Parkway in the area of Reagan National Airport.

During the course of this enforcement action, over 4,000 vehicles passed through the checkpoint and 75 motorcyclists were stopped. Of the motorcyclists stopped, 8 operators had no driver's licenses, 8 operators had registration violations, 7 motorcycles were found to have safety inspection issues, 1 operator had a revoked permit, 1 operator was in violation of a learner's permit, and 3 motorcycles were impounded resulting in the issuance of 26 citations. The goal of the checkpoint was to enforce existing laws and educate riders through motorcycle safety tips brochures.

Due to the overwhelming success of this checkpoint, future checkpoints are planned.



The Piedmont Alcohol Safety Action Program (ASAP) conducted its 11th Annual Police Recognition Event on December 10th, 2008 at the Farmville Train Station. Recipients of awards were:

- **Allen Ross, Jr.** – VSP (Buckingham County)
- **John P. Johnson** – Longwood Univ. Police Department
- **Michael A. Guyer** – VSP (Cumberland County)
- **Dale Vaughn** – Prince Edward County Sheriff's Office
- **B. H. Paulette, III** – Town of Farmville (*received special award for most DUI arrests with 82 arrests*)
- **Erik Bryan** – Buckingham County Sheriff's Office
- **Tony Mayton** – Blackstone Police Department
- **William J. Wilborn, Jr.** – VSP (Charlotte County)
- **Todd C. Smith** – VSP (Amelia County)
- **Bradley S. Myers** – Kenbridge Police Department
- **Morgan E. Croft** – VSP (Prince Edward County)
- **Tommy Price** – Cumberland County Sheriff's Office
- **Benjamin S. Coates** – VSP (Nottoway County)
- **Seth Wenger** – Nottoway County Sheriff's Office
- **Thomas Travis** – Hampden-Sydney Police Department
- **Jeremy S. Brown** – Charlotte County Sheriff's Office

Car Surfing and Its Consequences: CDC's Findings on a Dangerous Thrill-Seeking Activity

Teens ages 16 to 19 are at a higher risk of being involved in car crashes than any other age group. And, a new study shows that teens are also among the age group most likely to participate in car surfing, a thrill-seeking activity with potentially deadly consequences.

New study findings on car surfing

According to an article published in the October 17, 2008 issue of MMWR, since 1990 at least 99 people died or sustained serious injuries as a result of car surfing, an activity that involves riding on the exterior of a moving vehicle. Researchers from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Division of Unintentional Injury Prevention obtained information about car surfing injuries and deaths by reviewing newspaper reports from 1990 through 2008. Their findings answer common questions about this dangerous phenomenon, which appeals to young people, especially teenage males.

What is car surfing?

Car surfing is a dangerous, thrill-seeking activity that involves a person riding on the exterior of a moving vehicle, such as on the roof or the hood, while someone else is driving.

Who is most at risk for car surfing related injuries?

CDC researchers discovered the following facts about car surfing from their analysis of newspaper reports:

- Males are more likely to car surf than females.
- The average age of persons who are injured as a result of car surfing is 17.6 years old, and a larger than average proportion of injuries occurred among teenage males ages 15 to 19. However, injuries have been reported among persons ages 10 to 37—showing that car surfing is not an activity in which only teens participate.
- Injuries are reported in 31 states, although a regional pattern was detected with 39% from the Midwest and 35% from the South.

How fast must a vehicle be travelling in order for someone to be injured or killed while car surfing?

Car surfing is dangerous at nearly any speed. The study found that injuries and deaths were reported in cases where vehicles were traveling at different speeds, from as slow as 5 mph to as fast as 80 mph. The most dangerous thing that can happen while car surfing is falling from the vehicle, as this can lead to fatal head injury even at slow speeds. One of the key risks of car surfing is a driver's sudden unanticipated maneuvers, such as swerving or braking, that can force a car surfer off the vehicle.

What can be done to help keep teens from car surfing?

Parents and other influential adults should be aware of car surfing and its potentially deadly consequences. Adults can talk to teens about the real risk of injury and death that car surfing poses.

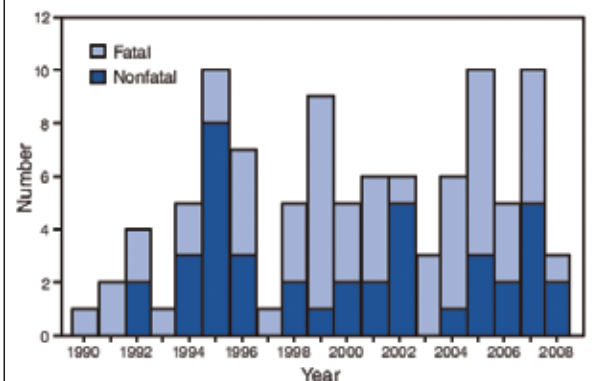
CDC's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control supports parents' efforts to keep teens safe on the road at all times. Overall, car crashes are the leading cause of death for teenagers in the United States. Parents can play a key role in keeping teens safe by learning about graduated driver licensing laws and ensuring that their teen driver follows the rules of the road. Learn more about teen driver safety and graduated drivers licensing at <http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/factsheets/teenmvh.htm>.

Where can I learn more about car surfing?

To learn more about car surfing, read the complete MMWR article at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5741a2.htm>.



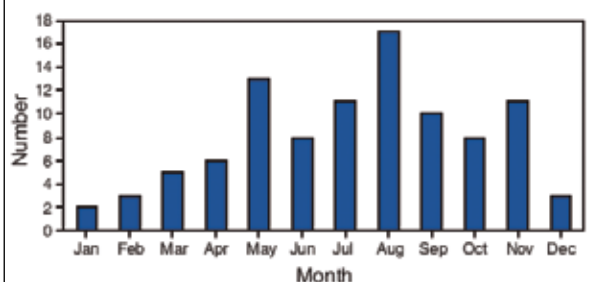
FIGURE 1. Number of fatal and nonfatal injuries attributable to car surfing,* based on newspaper reports — United States, 1990–2008†



SOURCE: Newspaper reports of car-surfing incidents from a LexisNexis search.

* Defined as an activity where a person attempts to ride on the exterior of a moving motor vehicle while it is being driven by another person.
† Results for 2008 are limited to January–August.

FIGURE 2. Number of car-surfing* injuries, based on newspaper reports, by month — United States, 1990–2008†



SOURCE: Newspaper reports of car-surfing incidents from a LexisNexis search.

* Defined as an activity where a person attempts to ride on the exterior of a moving motor vehicle while it is being driven by another person.
† Results for 2008 are limited to January–August.



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.

Since January, 2008, 37 individuals have been recognized by

On September 30, 2008, two Saved by the Belt awards were presented by Chesterfield County Police Chief Thierry Dupuis and Frank Kowaleski, Law Enforcement Liaison with the Virginia Highway Safety Office:

Mr. Richard Lee McAllister was involved in a crash in Chesterfield on October 18, 2007 while traveling west on Spring Road. He was traveling at a speed of 40mph when he approached a curve in the road. Another vehicle, traveling in the opposite direction, approached the curve at the same time as Mr. McAllister. The driver of the other vehicle did not properly navigate the curve and entered the lane in which Mr. McAllister was traveling, resulting in the two vehicles colliding head-on.

Mr. McAllister was wearing his safety belt and both air bags in his vehicle deployed, so he sustained only relatively minor injuries.

Mr. McAllister was nominated by Lt. J. Ashworth of the Chesterfield County Police Department.



Ms. Gail Valerie Lockhart was involved in a crash on June 4, 2008 while traveling east at 45 mph on a Chesterfield County road. Another vehicle, traveling west on the same road, lost control and overcorrected, striking Ms. Lockhart's vehicle head on.

Ms. Lockhart also sustained only minor injuries thanks to proper use of a safety belt and the deployment of both air bags in her vehicle.

The investigating officer said that Ms. Lockhart's injuries would have been much worse had she not been belted.

Ms. Lockhart also was nominated by Lt. J. Ashworth of the Chesterfield County Police Department.



the Saved by the Belt & Bag Awards Program for making the life-saving decision to buckle-up. Eleven individuals were recognized during the second half of 2008 and four of these individuals' stories are shared below.

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/.

On September 26, 2008, **John Sayers**, a captain with the Chesterfield County Fire Department, was driving down the road in his personal vehicle at 45 mph when he was struck head on by an oncoming vehicle traveling at the same speed. However, because he was wearing his seat belt and his vehicle's air bag deployed, Captain Sayers survived the crash without suffering severe trauma.

While he did sustain injuries to his leg and arm in the crash that currently have him in a wheelchair, Captain Sayers is expected to make a full recovery.

On December 2, Captain Sayers was presented the Saved by the Belt Award by Chief Thierry Dupuis of the Chesterfield County Police Department and Frank Kowaleski, Law Enforcement Liaison with the Virginia Highway Safety Office. Captain Sayers' wife, a paramedic with Chesterfield County, was also present.



Mrs. Nita Abernathy was presented a Saved by the Belt Award at the Smithfield Center on October 7, 2008. Smithfield Police Chief Mark Marshall, members of the Smithfield Police Department, and Mary Ann Rayment of the Virginia Highway Safety Office assisted in the presentation.

Mrs. Abernathy was nominated by the Smithfield Police Department after her vehicle was struck at a high rate of speed while traveling on Church Street in Smithfield on May 21, 2008. The officer that investigated the crash said he believed that if Mrs. Abernathy had not been belted, she would have been ejected from her vehicle and would have sustained far greater injuries or even death.

Mrs. Abernathy is a records clerk for the Smithfield Police Department.



Henrico Police Crack Down on Speeding, Other Violations in County School Zones

During the first two weeks of school in September, 2008, the Henrico County Division of Police conducted "Operation Back to School", a strict enforcement operation in the county's school zones. Fifty-one school zones were patrolled during the two-week operation: 30 elementary schools, 12 middle schools, 8 high schools, and 1 private K-12 school.

This year, the department doubled the total count of tickets written from the 2007 operation to 480 tickets, as well as almost doubling the total count of speeding tickets written.

The department vows to continue to keep the pressure on throughout the year to keep the county's children safe.



Operation Back to School Results

Speeding Violations	376
Reckless Driving (Speed)	13
Reckless Driving (Passing a School Bus)	1
Suspended Operator's License	10
No Operator's License	12
Seat Belt Violations	24
Improper/No Child Restraint	1
Expired Registrations	8
Expired State Inspections	22
Defective Equipment	7
Failure to Obey Traffic Sign	5
Loud Music	1
TOTAL VIOLATIONS	480

2009 Smart, Safe & Sober Calendars are available!

If you did not receive a copy in the mail, or if you would like to request additional copies of the calendar for your department or locality, contact:

Erin Schrad, VACP Communications Manager
erin@vachiefs.org • Phone: (804) 285-8227

OR,

your local Va. Highway Safety Office LEL or CTSP Manager (see page 2).

A PDF of the calendar is also available for download on the SS&S website.

(Psst! Want to be a featured agency in the 2010 calendar? Take high-res photos of your enforcement and public education activities during 2009 and send them to Erin Schrad at the email above!)



D.C. Area Law Enforcement Lauded For Fight Against Drunk Driving

Eleventh-annual event honors Greater Washington's police

(December 12, 2008) 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 eleventh-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 2008 Law Enforcement Awards to:

- **Sergeant Matthew Weinert, Alexandria Police Department;**
- **Officer Ronald Grannis, Arlington County Police Department;**
- **Captain Deborah Burnett, Fairfax County Police Department;**
- **Deputy Ryan Woellner, Loudoun County Sheriff's Office;**
- Trooper First Class Justin L. Mallow, Maryland State Police;
- Officer Andrew Zabavsky, D.C. Metropolitan Police Department;
- Officer III John Romack, Montgomery County Department of Police;
- Corporal Steven Allen, Prince George's County Police Department;
- **Officer David A. Ehrhardt, Prince William County Police Department;**
- Master Patrol Officer Anthony Gianino and Officer Penti W. Gillespie, United States Park Police; and,
- **Senior Trooper Michael S. Middleton, Virginia State Police.**

The annual awards 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 2007 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



Pictured, from l. to r.: Officer David A. Ehrhardt, Prince William County Police Department; Senior Trooper Michael S. Middleton, Virginia State Police; Captain Deborah Burnett, Fairfax County Police Department; Sergeant Matthew Weinert, Alexandria Police Department; Officer Penti W. Gillespie, United States Park Police; Deputy Ryan Woellner, Loudoun County Sheriff's Office; and, Officer Ronald Grannis, Arlington County Police Department.

speakers included Maryland Delegate Bill Bronrott (D-16th), Virginia Delegate Brian Moran (D-46th) and Montgomery County Department of Police Chief Tom Manger, amongst others.

“Today's awardees represent the front lines in the fight against drunk driving in Greater Washington,” said Kurt 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 2008 “How Safe are Our Roads” report (see online at: <http://www.wrap.org/highwaysafety08.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 2008

WRAP honorees also received four 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 (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.

Crash Investigation and Reconstruction Courses from VCU Transportation Safety Training Center

Fundamentals of Crash Investigation and Reconstruction

Each fiscal year, TSTC offers four fundamentals of crash investigation and reconstruction courses. The two-week long course imparts the knowledge and skills required for detailed crash investigation and combines classroom lectures with practical field exercises.

Topics include: coefficient of friction; computing speeds from yaw marks and skid marks; lamp examination; vehicle and occupant kinematics; indicators of safety belt use; identifying and documenting evidence; traffic law; measuring the scene; and scale diagramming.

The course fee is \$85. Students receive a course notebook, traffic template and quick reference handbook. Transportation, lodging and meals are the responsibility of each student. The Department of Criminal Justice Services will award 34 elective and four legal hours upon completion of this course.

March 16 – 27, 2009 • 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

New River Criminal Justice Training Academy
3165 Greenbriar Road • Draper, VA 24324

April 13 – 24, 2009 • 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Central Virginia Criminal Justice Academy
1200 Church Street • Lynchburg, Virginia 24504

July 6 – 17, 2009 • 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Henrico County Police Training Academy
7721 E. Parham Rd. • Henrico, VA 23294

August 3 – 14, 2009 • 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Prince William County Police Training Academy
13101 Public Safety Drive • Nokesville, Virginia 20181

For additional information on the class and to register, go to <http://www.vcu.edu/cppweb/tstc/training>.

Motorcycle Crash Investigation and Reconstruction

TSTC is pleased to offer a one week motorcycle crash investigation and reconstruction course. The course will focus on motorcycle crash reconstruction topics such as crash causation, State and Federal regulations, handling and stability issues unique to motorcycles, airborne and minimum speed from skid calculations, and time, distance and acceleration analysis. Prerequisite for enrollment is successful completion of a basic two-week crash investigation course. There is no fee for the course. Students are responsible for their own transportation, lodging and meals. The Department of Criminal Justice Services will award career development in-service credit upon completion of this course.

February 23 – 27, 2009 • 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Piedmont Regional Criminal Justice Training Academy
1024 Dupont Road • Martinsville, Virginia 24114

June 1 – 5, 2009 • 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Central Shenandoah Criminal Justice Training Academy
3045 Lee Highway • Weyers Cave, VA 24486

For additional information on the class and to register, go to <http://www.vcu.edu/cppweb/tstc/training>.

Advanced Crash Investigation and Reconstruction

The TSTC of VCU will conduct advanced crash investigation and reconstruction courses in 2009. The one-week course will focus on motor vehicle crash reconstruction topics such as theory and derivation of reconstruction equations, flip and vault speed calculations, fall speed calculations, and time, distance and acceleration analysis. A major portion of the course will focus on impact speed calculations using conservation of linear momentum. Both vector and algebraic solutions will be addressed.

Prerequisite for enrollment is successful completion of a basic two-week crash investigation course. The course fee is \$40. The Department of Criminal Justice Services will award 36 hours of career development in-service credit upon completion of this course.

May 11 – 15, 2009 • 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Cardinal Criminal Justice Academy
917 Central Avenue • Salem, VA 24153

August 24 – 28, 2009 • 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Rappahannock Regional Criminal Justice Academy
3630 Lee Hill Drive • Fredericksburg, Virginia 22408

For additional information on the class and to register, go to <http://www.vcu.edu/cppweb/tstc/training>.

Crash Investigation Refresher and Update

The TSTC of VCU will conduct two Crash Investigation Refresher and Update courses in 2009. The two-day training workshop, taught by members of the Virginia Multi-disciplinary Crash Investigation Team, will focus on the following motor vehicle crash investigation and reconstruction topics:

Foundations of crash investigation and reconstruction; Documentation and analysis of roadway evidence; Documentation and analysis of vehicle evidence; Human factors issues; Technologies for measurement and reconstruction; Reconstruction equations: time and distance, acceleration/deceleration, speed formulas and conservation of momentum; Preparing for court; Recent court cases and new legislation.

Course prerequisites are successful completion of Fundamentals of Crash Investigation and Reconstruction (TSTC), At-Scene Traffic Crash Investigation (IPTM) or the equivalent. The course is free and open to the first 25 students who register. The Department of Criminal Justice Services has approved this course for law enforcement in-service training credits.

Transportation, lodging and meals are the responsibility of each student. Classes will begin at the times listed for each session.

August 18 – 19, 2009 • 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Richmond Police Department Training Academy
1202 West Graham Road • Richmond, Virginia

September 15 – 16, 2009 • 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Cardinal Criminal Justice Academy
917 Central Avenue • Salem, Virginia

For additional information on the class and to register, go to <http://www.vcu.edu/cppweb/tstc/training>.



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



In 2008, 55 agencies competed in the 2007 Virginia Law Enforcement Challenge and 17 of those agencies moved on to take home awards in the National Challenge, making Virginia a leader in the National competition. In 2009, our goal is to collect **60 entries for the 2008 Challenge** and once again have more agencies than any other state win National awards.

To achieve this goal, **10 Law Enforcement Challenge Workshops** are being offered across the state to help your department prepare for the upcoming competition. Attendees will learn about the 2008 Law Enforcement Challenge, its benefits, the application process, and any changes that have been made to the judging criteria.

Whether your agency is a regular participant in the Challenge or has never entered before, come and check it out! 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. (And chances are, rookies, your agency is already involved in the various highway safety activities required by the Challenge!) Remember, attending one of these informative workshops does not obligate your department to enter the 2008 competition. You may just decide to take the opportunity to learn what to do in 2009 to enter next time! **(NOTE: DCJS in-service credit will be given to attendees.)**

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>WESTERN REGION WORKSHOPS:</u>	<u>EASTERN REGION WORKSHOPS:</u>
To register, contact Don Allen at (540) 599-1449 or Donald.Allen@dmv.virginia.gov	To register, contact Frank Kowaleski at (757) 508-8227 or Frank.Kowaleski@dmv.virginia.gov
<u>Jan 20, 2009</u> Cardinal Criminal Justice Academy 917 Central Avenue • Salem, VA 24153	<u>Jan 27, 2009</u> Hampton Roads Criminal Justice Academy 805 Middle Ground Blvd. • Newport News, VA 23606
<u>Jan 21, 2009</u> Central Virginia Criminal Justice Academy 1200 Church Street • Lynchburg, VA 24504	<u>Jan 28, 2009</u> South Boston Police Department Training Room 640 Hamilton Boulevard • South Boston, VA 24592
<u>Jan 23, 2009</u> Southwest Criminal Justice Academy 330 Bonham Road • Bristol, VA 24201	<u>Jan 29, 2009</u> Richmond Police Training Academy 1202 West Graham Road • Richmond, VA 23220
<u>Jan 26, 2009</u> Central Shenandoah Criminal Justice Academy 3045 Lee Highway • Weyers Cave, VA 24486	<u>Feb 2, 2009</u> Stafford County Sheriff's Office Training Room 1225 Courthouse Road • Stafford, VA 22554
<u>Jan 29, 2009</u> New River Criminal Justice Academy 3165 Greenbrier Road • Draper, VA 24324	<u>Feb 3, 2009</u> Albemarle County Office Building 401 McIntire Road, Rm. 235 • Charlottesville, VA 22902

REGISTRATION INFORMATION:

Contact Name: _____ Agency: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

City, State: _____ Zip: _____

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

Call or email this registration form to the contact person assigned to your class selection

AAA Foundation: “Majority of Americans Wrongly Believe Hands-Free Cell Phones are Safer than Hand-Held Devices”

Research shows both equally a risk to driver safety

(December 4, 2008) WASHINGTON, D.C.—Two-thirds of Americans who use cell phones while driving believe it is safer to talk on a hands-free cell phone than on a hand-held device according to a new study released today by the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety. However, scientific research shows that is simply not the case.

As the number of cell phone subscribers and proportion of drivers using cell phones continues to increase, studies that have analyzed the cell phone records of crash-involved drivers have reported that using a cell phone while driving makes you four times as likely to be involved in a crash.

“Too many Americans are driving with the false sense of security that hands-free devices are somehow safer, which could be a deadly mistake,” said AAA Foundation President and CEO Peter Kissinger. “Evidence shows that using a hands-free phone while driving impairs your reaction time to critical events and increases your crash risk about the same as if you were using a hand-held phone. Drivers need to be aware of the dangers of distracted driving and pay full attention while they are behind the wheel.”

Two recent AAA Foundation surveys of the motoring public have found:

Over half of U.S. drivers admit to using a cell phone while driving.

- In one survey, 53% of drivers reported having used a cell phone while driving at least occasionally in the month before they were interviewed; in the other survey, 61% said the same.
- In both surveys, one in six even admitted that they do this regularly.
- Of those who admitted using their cell phone while driving, 60% used a handheld device and 34% used a hands-free phone.

One in seven even admitted text messaging while driving in the past 30 days.

- Young drivers were overwhelmingly more likely than older drivers to text message, and somewhat more likely to talk on cell phones while driving. For example, nearly half of drivers ages 18 to 24 admitted texting while driving at least occasionally, as compared to less than five percent of those ages 45 and older.

Do as I say, not as I do: Despite survey respondents’ belief that drivers using cell phones are a serious traffic safety problem, a large portion admit they at least occasionally talk on a cell phone while driving.

While cell phone laws vary from state to state, no state has completely banned all cell phone use by drivers. Handheld cell phone use by drivers is illegal in California, Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, Washington and the District of Columbia. Some states ban all cell phone while driving for particular groups of drivers like teens (18 states and D.C.) or school bus drivers, except in emergency situations (17 states and D.C.). Laws that specifically ban text messaging while driving exist in Alaska, California, Connecticut, Louisiana, Minnesota, New Jersey and Washington state.

“Given the trouble new teen drivers have managing distractions and making safe driving decisions, AAA encourages all states to enact laws banning teens from using any wireless device while driving,” said Kathleen Marvaso, Vice President of Public Affairs for AAA. “Texting while driving poses even greater safety concerns than cell phone use due to the time involved looking away from the road, and should also be made illegal for drivers of all ages. Even if a state does not have a law banning these sorts of distracting activities, drivers should focus on safe driving at all times.”

State legislatures and local governments continue to push for more laws to stem this behavior. Hand-held banning bills were considered in 30 states in 2008. Localities with handheld phone bans include: Chicago, Ill.; Brookline, Mass.; Santa Fe, N.M.; Detroit, Mich.; Brooklyn, North Olmstead, and Walton Hills, Ohio; and Conshohocken, Lebanon, and West Conshohocken, Pa. No state or locality has banned all cell phone use for drivers, although bills were considered in six state legislatures in 2008. Legislation that would ban text messaging while driving was considered in 26 states in 2008, with cities including Phoenix, Ariz., Chicago, Ill., and Detroit, Mich. having passed local ordinances outlawing the activity.

“Young drivers face an array of potentially deadly challenges behind the wheel,” said Kissinger. “Parents should ensure cell phone use while driving, whether hands-free or not, isn’t added to the list of distractions at this critical time for new drivers.”

For more information, visit www.AAAFoundation.org. For a breakdown of laws by state, visit www.AAAPublicAffairs.com.

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Established in 1947 by AAA, the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety is an independent, publicly funded, 501(c)(3) charitable research and educational organization. The AAA Foundation’s mission is to prevent traffic deaths and injuries by conducting research into their causes and by educating the public about strategies to prevent crashes and reduce injuries when they do occur.

The data reported here were collected in two national telephone surveys: the AAA Foundation’s 2008 Traffic Safety Culture Index (AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety, 2008), and Opinion Research Corporation’s CARAVAN® omnibus survey (Opinion Research Corporation, 2008). The 2008 Traffic Safety Culture Index, was a telephone survey of 2,509 U.S. adults 18 years of age and older, conducted via land-line and cellular telephone, in English and in Spanish, by NuStats, LLC, from October 25, 2007 through January 10, 2008. This survey included questions on a number of various traffic safety issues including driver distraction and cell phone use. CARAVAN is a weekly cost-shared telephone omnibus survey of adults 18 years of age and older living in private households in the continental U.S. CARAVAN telephone interviews conducted from September 4, 2008 through September 8, 2008 included questions on driving and cell phone use which were paid for by the AAA Foundation.

Seat Belt Use Hits Record Level in 2008

(September 17, 2008) More Americans are buckling up than ever before, with 83 percent of vehicle occupants using seatbelts during daylight hours, U.S. Secretary of Transportation Mary E. Peters announced today. In 2007, 82 percent used seat belts.

"More and more Americans are realizing that the mere seconds it takes to buckle up can mean the difference between life and death," Secretary Peters said.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) estimates that approximately 270 lives are saved for every one percent increase in belt use. Acting NHTSA Administrator David Kelly said a contributing factor for such historically high seat belt use is high-visibility law enforcement efforts, such as the Department's "Click It or Ticket" campaign.

"We are committed to supporting state and local law enforcement in their front-line efforts to encourage belt use," Kelly said.

According to the report, 84 percent of passenger car occupants are buckling up. Even more people, 86 percent, are buckling up in vans and SUVs while pickup truck occupants buckled up 74 percent of the time.

The report finds that safety belt use increased or remained level in every region of the country, with the highest use being reported in the West (93 percent), and the lowest in the Midwest and Northeast (79 percent). The South reported 81 percent.

The report reveals that states with primary belt laws are averaging about 13 percentage points higher for seat belt use (88 percent) than states with second-

ary laws (75 percent). In primary belt law states, officers can issue a citation for a seat-belt violation alone. In secondary law states, seat belt citations are allowed only after a stop for another violation.

The report also notes that belt use on expressways is now at an estimated 90 percent while belt use on lower-speed "surface" streets remains at 80 percent.

Seat belt use and other data are collected annually by NHTSA as part of the National Occupant Protection Use Survey (NOPUS). The latest survey, conducted in June of 2008, involved daylight observations of vehicle occupant behavior at more than 1800 sites nationwide.

To see the latest seat belt report, click on the link below: <http://www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/Pubs/811036.PDF>

U.S. Transportation Secretary Peters Announces New Data Showing Record Low Highway Fatalities

Americans safer than ever on nation's roads, rails, and in the skies

(December 11, 2008) U.S. Transportation Secretary Mary E. Peters today said the number of people killed in traffic crashes is expected to reach a new record low in 2008, with early projections showing an almost 10 percent drop in highway traffic deaths in the first 10 months of this year.

The Secretary made the announcement today in Kansas City where she also outlined key safety benchmarks that have been achieved across all areas of transportation.

"Our focus on safety – from our highways, railways, seaways and airways – has led to one of the safest periods in our nation's transportation history," Secretary Peters said. "Every American can be more confident than ever they will arrive at their destination safe and sound."

The Secretary said the new fatality data marks the first time the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration is able to project fatality figures prior to the end of the calendar year. Using new electronic data gathering techniques, the Department is working to make projections in near real time to "give safety professionals the data they need to keep motorists safe," she said.

Early estimates show that 31,110 people died on the nation's

roads from January through October, compared to 34,502 in 2007 during that same 10-month time period. In addition, the fatality rate per 100 million vehicles miles traveled for the first nine months of 2008 is 1.28, compared to 1.37 for 2007.

"For the second year in a row we are seeing historic lows in deaths on our nation's roads," Secretary Peters said. "While we are encouraged by these declines, our work is not nearly complete in making our safe transportation network even safer."

NHTSA annually collects crash statistics from the 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico to produce annual reports on traffic fatality trends. The agency intends to update 2008 estimates regularly as more data becomes available. The final counts for 2008 will be made available in the summer of 2009. To view the preliminary fatality statistics visit: <http://nhtsa.gov/staticfiles/DOT/NHTSA/NCSA/Content/RNotes/2008/811054.pdf>.

NHTSA's new statistical report on 2007 alcohol-related fatalities is drawn from the agency's Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) and can be viewed at <http://www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/Pubs/811016.PDF>

For campaign materials, go to <http://www.stopimpaireddriving.org/>

Traffic Safety Calendar

- Jan 26 – Feb 2, 2009 **Super Bowl Sunday Impaired Driving Awareness Campaign: “Fans Don’t Let Fans Drive Drunk”** — www.stopimpaireddriving.org
- Mar 9-17, 2009 **St. Patrick’s Day Impaired Driving Awareness Campaign** — www.checkpointstrikeforce.net & www.stopimpaireddriving.org
- Mar 21-25, 2009 **Virginia Crime Prevention Association Conference** — Norfolk, VA — www.vcpa.org
- Mar 24-25, 2009 **Mid-Atlantic DUI Conference** — Virginia Beach, VA — www.vbgov.com/dui
- Mar 29 – Apr 1, 2009 **Lifesavers Conference** — Nashville, TN — www.lifesaversconference.org
- Mar 31, 2009 **2009-2010 DMV Traffic Safety Grant Applications Due!** — www.dmvnow.com
- Apr 6-10, 2009 **National Work Zone Awareness Week** — <http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/wz>
- Apr 6-7, 2009 **Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police Mid-Year Conference** — Front Royal, VA — www.vachiefs.org
- Apr 22-24, 2009 **Virginia Sheriff’s Institute Spring Conference & VSA Exhibition** — Richmond, VA — www.virginiasheriffs.org/vsi
- Apr 24, 2009 **2008 Virginia Law Enforcement Challenge Entries Due to VACP!** — www.smartsafeandsober.org/programs/LEC
- Apr 26 – May 3, 2009 **National SafeKIDS Week** — www.usa.safekids.org
- May 1, 2009 **Keep Kids Alive — Drive 25 Day** — www.keepkidsalivedrive25.org