# NEW JERSEY POLICE TRAFFIC OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION

December 2020 NEWSLETTER

Volume XLVI Issue VII

The only statewide association of tits kind in the entire United States Dedicated to the memory of Anthony "Tony" Parenti

Nick Schock - PresidentRich Maxwell - Executive Director / EditorMike Boffa - Vice PresidentMark Wilson - Operations SecretaryNJPTOA Business office - PO Box 664, Voorhees, NJ 08043 (856) 220-1433www.njptoa.orgtraffic@njptoa.org

## President's Message

I hope everyone was able to enjoy a safe and healthy Thanksgiving. Unfortunately, we were not able to gather for our annual holiday breakfast/meeting this year. Still, I'd like to thank everyone for their perseverance this year in continuing the hard work in traffic safety despite the challenges of COVID. I wish everyone a safe, happy, and healthy holiday season and New Year. The association has been working on some exciting prospects behind the scenes, and we hope to have some good news to kick off the new year.

Stay safe, Nick

# **Association News**

#### Monthly Business Meeting

#### Zoom Online

The next regularly meeting is on Wednesday, January 6, 2021, at 10:00 am.

An invitation to the Zoom meetings will be emailed out the Monday before the meeting. If you do not receive an invitation email for the meeting, reach out to President Schock or Executive Director Maxwell for the link.

#### WWW.NJPTOA.ORG & COVID-19

Visit our association's website regularly for updated information and Law Enforcement resources dealing with the COVID-19 outbreak. There is a page containing all of the Governor's Executive Orders, OEM Administrative Orders, MVC Orders & NJ AG Directives related to the outbreak. <u>www.njptoa.com.</u> Please Stay Safe & Healthy out there!

# Dues Notice for 2021, yes it says 2021

If you automatically pay your association dues, please hold off on submitting the purchase order or sending in the check for the 2021 dues. We are working on revising the procedure for collecting dues. More information will be forthcoming in the early part of 2021.

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# **Quick Points of Interest**

# Public Service Announcement from FBI Newark

Dec 4<sup>th</sup> - FBI Newark alerts residents who received a COVID-19 test at Infinity Diagnostic Laboratory in Ventour to be retested and reach out to our office.

As stated on the <u>U.S. Food and Drug Administration's website</u>, "rapid" finger-prick blood tests for COVID-19 are antibody tests and should not be used for diagnosing active cases of COVID-19. Only a test that uses a nasal swab or saliva should be used to diagnose active cases of COVID-19.

If you were recently tested for COVID-19 at Infinity Diagnostic Laboratory, located at 6715 Atlantic Avenue, Ventour, NJ, you are urged to be retested as soon as possible. If you were tested using a finger prick blood test at that location, please contact the FBI at <u>NK-Victim-Assistance@FBI.gov</u>.

Your response is voluntary but would be useful in a federal investigation. Based on the response provided, you may be contacted by the FBI and asked to provide additional information.

https://www.fbi.gov/contact-us/field-offices/newark/news/press-releases/public-service-announcementfrom-fbi-newark

# New (well, not really new) LEL for the NJSACOP

Chief Christopher Wagner (ret) is retiring a second time. He is stepping down from his position as Law Enforcement Liaison for the NJ State Association of Chiefs of Police. Chris has done an outstanding job working with our association over the past years. Chris has relocated to the sunny skies "down south" we all wish him well and thanks for a job well done.

Stepping into Chris' shoes on January 1<sup>st</sup> is Chief Michael Morris (ret), the current NHTSA Region 2 National LEL. Mike retired as Chief of Police from Egg Harbor Township in 2015. Our association already has a fantastic working relationship with Mike, and we look forward to continuing it in his new position.

In his position as Region 2 LEL, Chief Morris was responsible for coordinating and assisting the activities of the state, county, and local LEL's in Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. In his new position, he will now be able to put all of his efforts towards New Jersey and its citizens' safety.

Chief Morris can be reached by email at mmorris@njsacop.org or by phone at 609-226-7620.

The NJSACOP has received a grant from the NHTSA to provide a Regional Law Enforcement Liaison to work within the NHTSA Region 2 States, Mike's old position. For more information, contact NJSACOP Executive Director Mitchell Sklar at the NJSACOP State Office or via email at <u>mcsklar@njsacop.org</u>. The closing date for applications is December 21, 2020.

# AAA First Responder Membership Discount – Mid- Atlantic Club

Frank Neary from AAA Mid-Atlantic has passed along some great news. First Responders who live or work in the following NJ counties: Atlantic, Burlington, Cape May, Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean, Somerset, Sussex, and Warren, are eligible for the 1<sup>st</sup> Responder AAA Discount program. A flyer can be found in the Appendix of this Newsletter with full details.





#### Where does NJ rank for wearing COVID masks?

Njspotlight

Despite all the talk about pandemic fatigue, recent studies indicate that the percentage of New Jersey residents who favor wearing COVID-19 masks has climbed from 78% in the spring to 84% this fall. Those numbers rank New Jersey relatively high among the states. Brenda Flanagan has the story. <u>Read more.</u>

## **CDC Updates Quarantine Guidelines**

# *Options to Reduce Quarantine for Contacts of Persons with SARS-CoV-2 Infection Using Symptom Monitoring and Diagnostic Testing*

Updated Dec. 2, 2020 - Local public health authorities determine and establish the quarantine options for their jurisdictions. CDC currently recommends a quarantine period of 14 days. However, based on local circumstances and resources, the following options to shorten quarantine are acceptable alternatives.

- The quarantine can end after Day 10 without testing and if no symptoms have been reported during daily monitoring.
  - With this strategy, residual post-quarantine transmission risk is about 1%, with an upper limit of about 10%.
- When diagnostic testing resources are sufficient and available, then quarantine can end after Day 7 if a diagnostic specimen tests negative and if no symptoms were reported during daily monitoring. The sample may be collected and tested within 48 hours before the time of planned quarantine discontinuation (e.g., the anticipation of testing delays), but quarantine cannot be discontinued earlier than after Day 7.
  - With this strategy, the residual post-quarantine transmission risk is about 5%, with an upper limit of about 12%.

In both cases, additional criteria (e.g., continued symptom monitoring and masking through Day 14) must be met and are <u>outlined in the full text</u>.

#### **NHTSA - Critical Vehicle Recall Information - Chevrolet Bolt**

Owners of select Model Year 2017-2019 Chevrolet Bolt vehicles should park their cars outside and away from homes until their cars have been repaired due to a new recall for fire risk.

GM has issued a recall of 50,932 Chevrolet Bolt vehicles for the potential of an unattended fire in the highvoltage battery pack underneath the back seat's bottom cushion. The affected vehicles' cell packs have the potential to smoke and ignite internally, which could spread to the rest of the car and cause a structure fire if parked inside a garage or near a house.

These vehicles can catch fire even if they are turned off, parked, and disconnected from a charging unit. NHTSA has confirmed five known fires with two injuries; at least one of the fires spread from the vehicle and ignited a home. Until these recalled vehicles have been repaired, the safest place to park them is outside and away from homes.

NHTSA has an open defect investigation into this issue. The opening resume for this investigation is available here.

NHTSA encourages all consumers to report any safety concerns to the <u>agency</u> online or by calling our Vehicle Safety Hotline (Toll-Free: 1-888-327-4236 / Hearing Impaired (TTY): 1-800-424-9153).

# Updates from the New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety

140 East Front Street, 7th Floor Trenton, NJ 08625-0048 Main number - 800-422-3750 or 609-633-9300

Website www.njsaferoads.com

<u>Director</u>

Eric Heitmann eric.heitmann@njoag.gov

<u>DHTS Regional Supervisors</u> North – Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Morris, Passaic, Sussex, Warren Bob Gaydosh: 609-376-9706 or robert.gaydosh@njoag.gov

**Central** - Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean, Somerset, Union Ed O'Connor: 609-376-9708 or edward.o'connor@njoag.gov

**South** - Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Salem Ray Reeve: 609-376-9713 or raymond.reeve@njoag.gov

# New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety Kicks Off "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" Campaign Against Impaired Driving

Starting December 4<sup>th</sup>, law enforcement agencies across the state will be patrolling New Jersey roads looking for drunk and impaired drivers as part of the annual "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" holiday campaign, which runs through January 1, 2021.

Of the 559 people killed in traffic crashes in New Jersey last year, nearly a quarter of them – 129 – lost their lives in crashes involving drunk drivers. According to the NHTSA, drunk driving crashes claim the lives of more than 10,000 people nationwide each year.

New Jersey's campaign is part of a nationwide effort to reduce crash risks during the holiday season. To assist with New Jersey's enforcement efforts, the Division has awarded grants totaling \$656,340 to 114 agencies across the state to fund enhanced patrolling and high-visibility sobriety checkpoints throughout New Jersey during December.

"This has been a year of tremendous loss for New Jersey residents impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, and we are all feeling especially grateful for the loved ones with us this holiday season," said Attorney General Gurbir S. Grewal. "Help ensure that everyone can safely celebrate this year by driving sober and unimpaired. Drunk driving crashes are tragic and preventable. We are stepping up patrols and enforcement to keep New Jersey roadways safe for all who use them this holiday season."

"Our mission is to ensure that travelers on New Jersey roadways reach their destinations safely – especially during the holiday season when crash risks increase," said Eric Heitmann, Director of Division of Highway Traffic Safety. "We pursue this mission through programs like Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over that raise public awareness of the dangers of impaired driving and provide law enforcement with funding for enhanced enforcement. This season make sure a designated driver is part of your holiday celebration plans. Anyone driving under the influence can count on encountering a law enforcement presence on the State's roadways."

Last year, the Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over holiday campaign resulted in 1,380 DWI arrests (alcohol and/or drugs) statewide; participating police agencies issued 4,960 and 2,023 speeding and seats belt summonses respectively. Many departments reported noteworthy accomplishments, including 14 agencies making 13 or more DWI arrests during the campaign.

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# Some Words from the Director – Eric Heitmann

December is here, bringing holiday cheer, the hustle and bustle of the busy shopping season and the anticipation of COVID-safe small gatherings with loved ones!

Here at the New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety, we want to help preserve the magic of the season by ensuring that all holiday travelers reach their destinations safely by pledging to drive sober as we participate in our annual "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" enforcement mobilization, obeying the speed limits on our roadways, and saying NO to risky driving behaviors.

During the pandemic, statistics have shown that alcohol and drug use has increased in correlation with a rise in anxiety, depression, and other mental health disorders, which has led to more people driving under the influence. Other worrisome statistics show that even though our roadways are less crowded with more people staying at home, the number of fatalities has remained consistent to pre-COVID times due to an increased number of drivers speeding and a decreased use of seatbelts. Traveling at high speeds without seatbelt use has resulted in an increased number of crashes where people are killed from being ejected from their vehicles.

We want everyone to arrive at their destination ALIVE. You can help prevent crashes and deaths related to impaired driving and other risky roadway behaviors by reminding drivers to have a safety plan.

Please convey the following tips to highway users through your social media and websites to help ensure a holiday season that is safe and fun for all:

- Before drinking, designate a sober driver.
- If you are impaired in any way, use the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's "SafeRide" app to call a taxi or a friend. The app is available on <u>Google Play</u> for Android devices and Apple devices on the <u>iTunes store</u>. Remember, buzzed driving is drunk driving.
- If you are hosting a small gathering, make sure all guests leave with a sober driver.
- If you see a drunk driver on the road, call law enforcement immediately.
- Always wear your seat belt, no matter what seat you are sitting in or how long your trip is.
- Obey all speed limits, even if the roadway seems emptier than usual. Speed limits are created with your safety in mind.

I invite everyone to contact our office via phone (609) 633-9300 or email HTSWebInfo@njoag.gov with questions, comments, or suggestions. You can also follow along with the NJ DHTS on social media to join the #DriveSoberOrGetPulledOver and #BuzzedDrivingIsDrunkDriving discussions and other traffic safety conversations.

Facebook - @NewJerseyDivisionofHighwayTrafficSafety

Twitter - @NJTrafficSafety

Instagram- @NJTrafficSafety,

For a wealth of information on a wide array of traffic safety topics, please visit the Division's frequently updated web site at www.NJSafeRoads.com.

Please stay safe and be smart on the roadway this season so everyone is able to enjoy the season with their families. HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

# Winter Storm Messaging Video

New Jersey Department of Transportation's Commissioner Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti, Colonel Patrick Callahan, Superintendent of the New Jersey State Police, and New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety's Director Eric Heitmann joined together to remind motorists of the importance of driving safely and staying off the roads during and directly after a winter storm.

Click here to view the Winter Storm Driving PSA

#### Loud and Modified Vehicle Mufflers

NJDHTS has received several citizen complaints about loud/modified car mufflers and what can be done about them. In response, the following postings were made to the DHTS' social media pages:



https://www.facebook.com/NewJerseyDivisionofHighwayTrafficSafety/posts/1842352822578745

Below are two newspaper articles related to the problem:

https://www.nytimes.com/2020/10/16/nyregion/loud-cars-noise-complaints-nyc.html https://www.nj.com/traffic/2017/09/do cops actually write tickets for loud exhaust systems we checke d.html

A lot of the citizen complaints stress that this has become a quality of life issue. It has reached the level of becoming a mental health problem for some, and they cannot focus or sleep with the noise. The consensus is that the police are not pulling over and ticketing these offenders.

DHTS is asking for our help in addressing this problem. Please keep an extra lookout (and ear out) for these violations and take the appropriate actions.

# NJ Division on Highway Traffic Safety - Graduated Driver Licensing - Kyleigh's Law

What are GDL and Kyleigh's Law? GDL Program. The GDL is a three-stage licensing process designed to give new drivers increased step-by-step instruction and driving experience on the road to obtaining a basic driver's license. <u>www.njsaferoads.com</u>

#### Stick to It campaign and website <u>http://www.njsaferoads.com/sticktoit/</u>

Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) laws are recognized as the single most effective tool for keeping young drivers safe and reducing teen driver crashes, injuries, and deaths. New Jersey has some of the most effective laws in the country, so to celebrate ten years of Kyleigh's Law and 20 years of the GDL, we're asking NJ to #StickTolt.





DHTS has a month full of essential safety campaigns lined up and they are looking for all of us to help by getting involved. Below is a list of the campaigns, information, graphics, and ways to get involved. If you have any questions related to any of these campaigns, contact your DHTS Regional Supervisor.

Click here to download graphics and copy for use on websites and social media.

# "Cocktails-to-Go"

**12/7/20:** While "cocktails-to-go" in tamper-evident containers are permitted for take-out during the state of emergency, please remember to still #DriveSober.



Graphic: DHTS Carry Out 2

# **#DRIVESOBER**

**12/17/20**: The holiday season has arrived. If you are out on the roads, please remember to always #DRIVESOBER, not just for yourself but for those around you. Our "Drive Sober" campaign is in full swing!



NJ is cracking down

## **#DriveSober laws!**

**12/21/20:** Buzzed driving is drunk driving. Ensure all "cocktails-to-go" you have carried out from restaurants, breweries and beyond remain sealed in their containers until you get home. Officers are out enforcing #DriveSober laws!

Graphic: DHTS



#### **#NewYearsEve**

Pre-Holiday Season – 11/30 to 12/15

Dick <u>here</u> and get your campaign materials.

Impaired/Buzzed Driving Messaging

**12/31/20:** Fact: #NewYearsEve is one of the most dangerous nights to be on the road. Our NJ law enforcement officers will be out in full force to ensure sober driving. #DriveSober





## **New Jersey Manufacturers Insurance Group**



NJM Consumer Safety Group has some exciting safety initiatives that they are offering at no charge to all motorists this holiday season, along with teen driver and high school programs this school year. Please share this information with your residents, high schools within your jurisdiction, and on your social media.

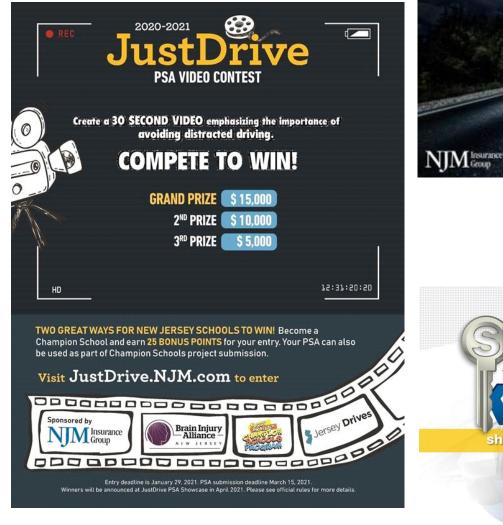
- Just Drive Holiday Pledge
- Just Drive 2020-2021 PSA Video Contest
- What Do You Consider Lethal?
- Share the Keys

in support of high schools moving to virtual learning, our teen driver safety programs are now available online. Keep reading for more details. For more information on any program, you can contact the following personnel at NJM:

Violet Marrero Director, Consumer Safety Group NJM Insurance Group (609) 659-7541 vmarrero@njm.com Mike Tullio Program Coordinator, Consumer Safety Group NJM Insurance Group (609) 705-6399 mtullio@njm.com

Vhatlo

Impact





# **Just Drive Holiday Pledge**

Distracted driving is responsible for more than 390,000 injuries and 3,500 deaths every. During the holidays, distracted driving is more prevalent due to increased travel, stress, and driver fatigue. This year, our goal is to help drivers avoid the perils of distracted driving by making the commitment to Just Drive while contributing to a great cause.

NJM is donating \$1 to the Brain Injury Alliance of New Jersey for every pledge we receive, up to \$5,000, to support the fantastic work they do. Additionally, when you take the pledge, you will be automatically be entered to win one of three NJM's gift packs, which include an Apple iPad, and NJM roadside emergency kit, and an NJM backpack.

Visit <u>https://justdrive.njm.com/pledge/</u> to take the pledge today!

Please note this is for all New Jersey drivers.

#### Just Drive – 2020-2021 PSA Video Contest

#### Share this information with the high schools in your jurisdiction!!!

NJ Manufacturers Insurance Group is proud to announce that they have partnered with the Brain Injury Association of New Jersey to launch the "Just Drive" PSA Contest for New Jersey high schools. First prize is \$15,000, second prize is \$10,000, while third prize is \$5,000.

This year, BIANJ is graciously allowing high schools to use their Just Drive PSA as their <u>Champion Schools</u> project entry. This means schools have the opportunity to **win up to \$25,000** for their driver education and safety initiatives!

Visit <u>JustDrive.NJM.com</u> to enter. The entry deadline is 1/29/2021. PSA Submission deadline 3/15/2021. <u>Click here for the official rules and more details.</u> Brain Injury Alliance of New Jersey Champion School Facebook page.

# What Do You Consider Lethal?

In addition to <u>Share the Keys</u>, we are now offering What Do You Consider Lethal? An evidence-based, award-winning program created by our partners at Impact Teen Drivers, a non-profit dedicated to saving lives by empowering people to drive safer.

This engaging and effective virtual classroom program is designed to help teens avoid reckless and distracted driving by making responsible decisions.

Schools can register for their presentation by visiting us at https://justdrive.njm.com/online/

#### Share the Keys

<u>Share the Keys</u> – NJM is offering Free Online Facilitator training for their "Share the Keys" Parent/Teen Graduated Driver's License orientation to Law Enforcement Officers and Teachers.

The training will take place on January 15, 2021, at 09:00 am. There is also a course flyer in the Appendix, and it is listed in the training section of this Newsletter.

# **Updates from the New Jersey State Police**



# **Division of NJ State Police Top 12 Most Wanted Fugitives**

Click the below link to see who is on the NJ State Police's Most Wanted List: <u>https://www.njsp.org/wanted/index.shtml</u>



# **Fatal Accident Investigation Unit**

Click here for more details from the NJSP Fatal Accident Unit

Below is the statewide fatal crash data as of 10:00 am, December 10, 2020

Fatal	Crashe	es	Fata	lities
2020	520		2020	553
2019	494		2019	526
2018	492		2018	528

Difference in Fatalities from 2019 to 2020 = increase of 27 Percentage of change between 2019 and 2020 = +5.1%

Difference in Fatalities from 2018 to 2019 = decline of 2Percentage of change between 2018 and 2019 = -0.4%

If you ever have a question about a fatal crash or want to update information about one, feel free to contact the NJSP Fatal Accident Unit at (609) 882-2000 Ext. 2038



# Updates from the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission



# **MVC Agency Closings**

As of December 10<sup>th</sup> - Due to employees testing positive for COVID-19 at these locations, each center is scheduled to reopen on the following dates:

Wallington Vehicle Center - reopens Wednesday, Dec. 23

Medford Vehicle Center - reopens Saturday, Dec. 12

Springfield Vehicle Center – reopens Saturday, Dec. 12

Randolph Licensing Center – reopens Saturday, Dec. 12

Eatontown Regional/Licensing Center - reopens Tuesday, Dec. 15

Trenton Regional/Vehicle Center - reopens Wednesday, Dec. 16

Newark Regional/Licensing Center - reopens Wednesday, Dec. 16

Flemington Licensing Center – reopens Wednesday, Dec. 16

North Bergen Licensing Center - reopens Thursday, Dec. 17

Freehold Licensing Center - reopens Thursday, Dec. 17

Toms River Licensing Center – reopens Tuesday, Dec. 22

**Newton Vehicle Center** - open by appointment only until Monday, Dec. 14. No walk-ins currently are allowed at Newton.

To protect customers and employees, the MVC follows strict quarantine rules in the case of confirmed exposure to COVID-19. As cases surge nationwide, more Centers may be closed and appointments canceled due to those quarantines.

# **10 MVC Licensing Centers and Vehicle Centers are Now Appointment-Only**

As listed in last month's Newsletter, MVC is continuing with appointment ONLY at the following Vehicle Centers. No walk-ins are allowed.

Cherry Hill Hazlet Jersey City Lakewood Manahawkin Medford Somerville Springfield Turnersville Wallington



Appointments may be needed to visit other locations based on the required transaction. The following transactions require an appointment:

Vehicle Registration/Title Out of State Transfer CDL Renewal Registration Renewal Driver knowledge test Road test

<u>Click here to read the full MVC info sheet</u> <u>Click here for the "Cheat Sheet" for MVC services</u>

# NJ Licenses & IDs Go to Central Issuance

November 23, 2020 - As part of a long-planned security upgrade, NJMVC is rolling out a new license design with modern security features, issued centrally from a secure production facility.

Central Issuance is industry best practice, providing greater fraud protection and security for individuals' personal information and protecting them from identity theft.

At least 27 states already have a practice of Central Issuance.

What this means for the customer:

Licenses will no longer be printed at Licensing Centers while you wait but will be mailed to you. You will be given an interim license at the center.

The current printers, which are outdated, frequently overheat, and break down, will be removed from the Centers. Your transaction will be quicker and more efficient, getting you in and out of the center in less time.

"My Office is honored to work with Chief Sue Fulton and her team at the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission to move forward with this long-anticipated update that enhances the security of New Jersey licenses," said Jared M. Maples, Director of the New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness. "In addition to complying with national REAL ID standards, having secure identity credentials better protects New Jersey residents from fraud and identity theft."

"Our commitment to producing secure, reliable documents requires constant updates to our security, and we're grateful for the support and counsel of Director Maples and the Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness," said Sue Fulton, Chief Administrator of the Motor Vehicle Commission. "We already mail hundreds of thousands of licenses via our online and mail renewal systems, but this initiative will round out that process – and have the side effect of speeding your trip if you have to visit the agency in person."

This initiative, originally planned as part of REAL ID Readiness, was delayed due to the COVID-19 crisis. It is now expected to go live on November 24<sup>th</sup>.





# Updates from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Follow NHTSA on <u>Facebook</u> and <u>Twitter</u> to keep up to date with the latest recalls and safety campaigns

# Holiday Season Impaired Driving High Visibility Enforcement Kickoff

Join the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) for a live virtual event on December 15<sup>th</sup> at 11 am. ET. The press conference will focus on coordinated federal and state High Visibility Enforcement efforts to combat alcohol- and drug-impaired driving.

Click here to register for this event

# **Quantifying Drowsy Driving [Traffic Safety Facts Research Note]**

#### https://rosap.ntl.bts.gov/view/dot/53435

According to NHTSA's National Center for Statistics and Analysis, drowsy driving was a contributing factor in 775 deaths in 2018, or 2.1% of total fatalities involving motor vehicle crashes on U.S. roadways. However, statistics likely underestimate the extent of the drowsy driving problem. The American Automobile Association Foundation for Traffic Safety estimated the percentage of fatal crashes that involved a drowsy driver at 21%. This Research Note explores the feasibility of using machine learning algorithms to identify drowsy driving episodes in large-scale naturalistic driving datasets. The Strategic Highway Research Program 2 (SHRP2) Naturalistic Driving Study (NDS) collected data from more than 3,400 participating drivers in six States, yielding time series data for more than 5 million trips. The SHRP2 NDS database contains vehicle variables and video data, including a view of the driver's face.



#### **Evaluation of Correct Child Restraint System Installation**

#### https://rosap.ntl.bts.gov/view/dot/50649

This research project used an experimental design, called an "incomplete factorial" type, with a convenience sample of 75 novices and 75 experienced child restraint system (CRS) users to test whether user experience, child's age/weight/height, vehicle characteristics, and CRS characteristics are associated with installation errors. This study identified conditions related to correct and incorrect CRS use to inform programming and education to increase correct use. The results help frame the target population for programming and education as not only novice users but also experienced users, as the study did not find a significant difference in errors by experience.



# **Crash Avoidance Technology Evaluation Using Real-World Crash Data**

#### https://rosap.ntl.bts.gov/view/dot/44159

This study used data on primarily optional safety content from 1.2 million General Motors (GM) vehicles linked to State police-reported crash data by Vehicle Identification Number to estimate field performance of various new safety technologies. After linkage, there were 35,401 vehicles in our analysis dataset. This data included both an indication (presence/absence) of certain types of safety equipment on each vehicle, as well as a variety of crash descriptors at the crash, vehicle, and driver levels. Available covariates were also used to attempt to control for variables that might influence system-relevant crash involvement for the systems examined, including driver age and gender, speed limit, alcohol/drug presence, fatigue, weather, road surface condition, vehicle type, and vehicle model.



## 2020 Winter Driving Tips - Focus on Safety

When the chilly temperatures of winter set in, will your vehicle be ready for the cold?

If you live in a part of the country that experiences inclement weather, such as heavy rain. snow, and ice, are you prepared to drive in those conditions? Planning and preventative maintenance are essential year-round ... but especially when it comes to winter driving.

Dick here for NHTSA's 2020 winter driving tips.



The holiday season is right around the corner. As we prepare for festivities with family

Drug-impaired driving is also a problem on America's highways. Like drunk driving, drug-impaired driving is impaired driving, which means that it is dangerous and illegal. threat to the driver, vehicle passengers, and other road users.



Now available: 2020 Social Media Playbook

These marketing tools can be distributed to fit your local needs and objectives while, at the same time, partnering with State, communities, and other traffic safety organizations on this pre-holiday season impaired driving prevention initiative.

Click here and get your campaign materials.





The Holiday Season is known for being merry and bright, but it's also known for being the deadliest season for impaired driving. Every holiday season, lives are lost due to drunk drivers.

Paid Media: December 16, 2020 - January 1, 2021 Mobilization: December 18, 2020 - January 1, 2021

Drug-impaired driving is also a problem on America's highways. Like drunk driving, *drugged driving is impaired driving*, which means that it is dangerous and illegal. Whether the drug is legally or illegally obtained, driving while drug-impaired poses a threat to the driver, the vehicle passengers, and other road users.

Use these marketing tools to fit your local needs and objectives while, at the same time, partnering with State and other traffic safety advocates:

- *<u>Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over</u>*
- Drive High Get a DUI

Click here to go to NHTSA's webpage for this program

# IF YOU FEEL DIFFERENT YOU DRIVE DIFFERENT DRIVE HIGH GET A DUI

# **Updates from the Federal Bureau of Investigation**

The latest edition of the FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin is now available online.



# **Ten Most Wanted Fugitives**

The official FBI Ten Most Wanted Fugitives list is maintained on the FBI website. This information may be copied and distributed. However, any unauthorized alteration of any portion of the FBI's Ten Most Wanted Fugitives posters is a violation of federal law Click here to go to the FBI's Ten Most Wanted website

#### FBI Releases 2019 NIBRS Crime Data

On December 9<sup>th</sup>, the FBI released detailed data on nearly 7.7 million criminal offenses reported to the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) in 2019.

The Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program's latest report, *NIBRS*, *2019*, presents data about victims, known offenders, and relationships for offenses reported in 23 categories with 52 offenses. It also presents arrest data for those crimes and ten additional categories for which only arrest data is collected.

#### Highlights of NIBRS, 2019

In 2019, 8,497 law enforcement agencies, whose jurisdictions covered more than 146.5 million U.S.



inhabitants, submitted NIBRS data to the UCR Program. These agencies accounted for 51.3% of the 16,551 law enforcement agencies that submitted data to the UCR Program in 2019. The remaining agencies submitted their data to the program via the Summary Reporting System (SRS). NIBRS agencies reported 6,572,870 incidents involving 7,688,645 offenses, 8,116,849 victims, and 6,543,257 known offenders. Also, these agencies reported 3,931,924 arrestees.

Click here to read the full press release

National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) home page

Click here to go to the FBI's 2019 NIBRS site

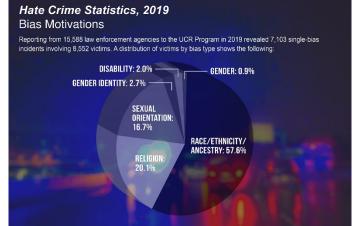
#### **FBI Releases 2019 Hate Crime Statistics**

The FBI released its latest Hate Crime Statistics report, an annual compilation of bias-motivated incidents throughout the nation that provides information about the offenses, victims, offenders, and locations of hate crimes. The 2019 data, submitted by 15,588 law enforcement agencies, provide information about the offenses, victims, offenders, and locations of hate crimes.

Law enforcement agencies submitted incident reports involving 7,314 criminal incidents and 8,559 related offenses as being motivated by bias toward race, ethnicity, ancestry, religion, sexual orientation, disability, gender, and gender identity. Please note the UCR Program does not estimate offenses for the jurisdictions of agencies that do not submit reports.

Click here for the Hate Crime Statistics, 2019

Click here to read the full press release.



# FBI New Jersey News

#### Click on the headline to read the press release for each story.

#### Sussex County Woman Charged with Concealing Terrorist Financing to Syrian Al-Nusra Front, a Foreign Terrorist Organization

Maria Bell of Sussex County, New Jersey, has been arrested at her home in connection with concealing sending money to a Syrian foreign terrorist organization.

#### South Jersey Doctor Charged in Health Care Fraud Billing Scheme

A doctor from Long Branch has been charged in connection with his role in a longstanding billing fraud scheme.

#### Owner of New Jersey Scrap Metal Company Charged with \$600,000 Fraud Scheme

The owner of a New Jersey-based scrap metal company has been arrested for allegedly orchestrating a scheme to defraud one of his customers.

#### New York Man Admits Credit and Gift Card Fraud Scheme

James Olla pleaded guilty to one count of a superseding indictment charging him with conspiracy to sell, receive, or possess stolen goods.

#### Justice Department Announces Global Resolution of Criminal and Civil Investigations with Opioid Manufacturer Purdue Pharma and Civil Settlement with Members of the Sackler Family

Purdue Pharma has agreed to plead guilty to one count of conspiracy to defraud the U.S. and violate the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, and two counts of conspiracy to violate the Federal Anti-Kickback Statute.

#### Former Jersey City Board of Education President and Acting Executive Director of Jersey City Employment and Training Program and Associate Charged with Embezzlement, Money Laundering, and Fraud

Sudhan M. Thomas and his accomplice, Paul H. Appel, were indicted for embezzlement, money laundering, and fraud in connection with multiple criminal schemes.

#### Leader of Atlantic City Drug Trafficking Organization Sentenced to 135 Months in Prison

Khalif Toombs, the leader of an Atlantic City drug-trafficking organization, was sentenced to 135 months in prison for conspiring to distribute heroin.

#### Gloucester County Man Admits Sexual Exploitation of Children and Distribution of Child Pornography

Andrew Nicholas, of Gloucester County, New Jersey, pleaded guilty to producing and distributing images of child sexual abuse.

#### **Doctor's Employee Admits Role in Genetic Testing Kickback and Bribery Scheme**

Kimberly Schmidt admitted to participating in a conspiracy to receive bribes and kickbacks in exchange for ordering genetic tests.

#### Camden Man Admits Role in Drug Trafficking Organization

Jose Agron, a member of a Camden drug trafficking organization, pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute at least one kilogram of heroin.

#### Owner of Durable Medical Equipment Companies Admits Role in \$16 Million Dollar Kickback Scheme

Albert Davydov of Rego Park admitted his role in a conspiracy to pay kickbacks in exchange for durable medical equipment

#### Essex County Man Admits Role in Multiple Bank Robberies

Myron Anderson of Essex County, New Jersey, admitted robbing five banks between October 2018 and January 2019.

#### **Repeat Offender Charged with Distribution and Possession of Child Pornography**

A man from Minotola is scheduled to make his initial appearance after being charged with possessing and distributing images of child sexual abuse.

#### Ohio Man Charged with Five Bank Robberies, Two Attempted Bank Robberies in New Jersey

Tyler O'Toole of Cleveland, Ohio, was arrested in Queens, New York, and charged with five counts of bank robbery and two counts of attempted bank robbery.

#### Former Resident of Bergen County Admits Role in \$1.5 Million Investment Fraud Scheme

Matthew Benjamin, a former New Jersey resident, admitted participating in an investment scheme through which he fraudulently obtained \$1.525 million from families.

# Staten Island Man Sentenced to 96 Months in Prison for Robbery, Identity Theft, and Defrauding Numerous Women and Businesses

Raymond Scura of Staten Island, New York, has been sentenced to 96 months in prison for robbing a New Jersey business owner in February 2019.

# Former City of Newark Official Charged with Scheming with Two Newark Businessmen to Obtain Bribes

Two men are each charged with one count of conspiracy to commit bribery in connection with the business of a local government and organization.

#### **Opioid Manufacturer Purdue Pharma Pleads Guilty to Fraud and Kickback Conspiracies**

Opioid manufacturer Purdue Pharma LP pleaded guilty in federal court in Newark, New Jersey, to conspiracies to defraud the United States.

#### Essex County Woman Charged with Wire Fraud Conspiracy

An Essex County woman was charged with defrauding elderly victims through a lottery scam in which victims were falsely told that they had won large sums of money.

#### Essex County Man Sentenced to 12 Years in Prison for Participation in Heroin Conspiracy

Raheem Tarry was sentenced to 144 months in prison for his role as a member of a conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute one kilogram or more of heroin.

#### **Eighteen Members of the 'Untouchable Gorilla Stone Nation' Gang Charged with Racketeering, Murder, Narcotics, Firearms, and Fraud Offenses**

Eighteen gang members have been charged with committing various racketeering, murder, narcotics, firearms, and fraud offenses.

#### Mercer County Man Charged with Possessing a Large Quantity of Heroin with Intent to Distribute

A Mercer County man made his initial appearance after being charged with possession with the intent to distribute heroin.

# Previously Convicted Felon Involved in Shooting Admits Illegal Possession of Firearm and Ammunition

Jamel Armfield of Jersey City, who was previously convicted of three felonies, admitted to illegally possessing a firearm and ammunition in connection with a shooting.

#### Bergen County Man Admits Role in Fraud Scheme

Dennys A. Tapia admitted his role in a scheme to defraud financial institutions of hundreds of thousands of dollars.

#### Former Sales Representative Admits Role in Compounded Prescription Drug Scheme

Thomas Bowers, a former sales representative, admitted his role in a scheme to defraud a New Jersey state health benefits program.



# Updates from the New Jersey Attorney General's Office

<u>https://www.njoag.gov/</u> is the new website of the New Jersey Office of the Attorney General. If you have any comments, issues, or feedback, please contact the webmaster@njoag.gov or Citizen Services at 609-984-5828.



Here is the new web address for the AG's Directives https://www.njoag.gov/resources/ag-directives/

#### Attorney General Grewal Issues Additional Guidance to Prosecutors on Handling Low-Level Marijuana Possession-Related Cases

On November 25<sup>th</sup>, Attorney General Grewal issued additional guidance to prosecutors concerning the prosecution of low-level marijuana cases, supplementing his August 29, 2018, and November 4, 2020 guidance.

On November 4th, the Attorney General issued guidance to law enforcement emphasizing that they have broad discretion in handling low-level marijuana offenses and encouraging them to exercise that discretion in light of anticipated legislative action that may decriminalize marijuana.

Attorney General Grewal reiterated that more comprehensive guidance, including direction on handling previously adjudicated matters, will follow when the Legislature provides details of the framework for marijuana decriminalization and the legalization of adult-use cannabis.

Guidance for Marijuana Possession Cases Pending in Municipal and Superior Courts: click here.

Guidance Regarding Municipal Prosecutors' Discretion in Prosecuting Marijuana and Other Criminal Offenses, August 29, 2018: <u>click here</u>.

Interim Guidance on the Constitutional Amendment Legalizing Cannabis, November 4, 2020: click here.

Click here to read the full press release

# Eight New Jersey Law Enforcement Agencies and Officers Honored with Inaugural Attorney General's Excellence In Policing Awards

## The Awards Highlight Bravery, Dedication and Innovation of NJ Law Enforcement

The following Excellence in Policing Awards were awarded on December 4<sup>th</sup>:

*The Detective Joseph Seals Valor Award* honors a police officer who demonstrated an act of extraordinary bravery or heroism in the line of duty. The award was bestowed posthumously to Patrolman Sean C. Peek of the Bridgeton City Police Department, who lost his life on September 6, 2020, in the line of duty.

*The Detective Pablo Santiago Resiliency Award* honors a police officer who developed an innovative program or initiative to improve officer safety and wellness. The award was presented to Patrol Sergeant Antonia Gonzalez of the Long Branch Police Department.

**The Attorney General's 21/21 Award** honors a county prosecutor's office that exhibited outstanding community outreach efforts. The award was presented to the Essex County Prosecutor's Office, under the leadership of Acting Essex County Prosecutor Theodore N. Stephens II.

**The Attorney General's Initiative Award** honors a police department or county prosecutor's office that demonstrated outstanding efforts toward advancing one of the Attorney General's key initiatives. The award was presented to the NJ State Parole Board for their Swift, Certain and Fair Sanctions Supervision Initiative.

*The Innovations in Public Safety Award* honors a police department or county prosecutor's office that developed an innovative program or initiative utilizing community policing practices or community-based intervention services to promote public safety. The award was presented to the Cumberland County Prosecutor's Office, under the leadership of Prosecutor Jennifer Webb-McCrae, for the series "Coping with COVID."

**The Outstanding Community Partnership Award** honors a police department or county prosecutor's office that implemented or strengthened a community partnership or collaboration with community stakeholders to advance public safety. The award was presented to the Collingswood Police Department, under the leadership of Chief Kevin Carey, for the Police Chief's Advisory Committee.

**The Outstanding Youth Engagement Award** honors a police officer who designed and implemented an innovative program or initiative to promote stronger police-youth engagement. The award was presented to Detective Anthony Carrington III from the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office for the MOVE Project.

**The Police Chaplain of the Year Award** honors an exceptional chaplain who goes above and beyond the normal duties of a police chaplain to serve the needs of the department and community. This year's award was presented to Pastor Terrence "TK" Porter of Pilgrim Baptist Church of Red Bank, who serves as Chaplain to the Monmouth County Chiefs Association.

Click here to read the full press release

Division of Criminal Justice Top 12 Most Wanted Fugitives Click here to go to the dcj's 12 wanted list

#### **Division of Criminal Justice News**

Click on the links below to read more:

AG Grewal Announces Federal Antitrust Lawsuit Against Facebook Alleging that Company Exerted Monopoly Power and Engaged In Anti-Competitive Conduct **December 9, 2020** 

Pennsylvania Man Pleads Guilty to Criminal Charge for Filing Fraudulent Liens against Public Officials in <u>New Jersey</u> December 8, 2020

<u>State Board of Medical Examiners Disciplines Two Physicians for Health Care Insurance Fraud</u> December 8, 2020

AG Grewal Announces New Jersey's Participation in \$86.3 Million Consumer Financial Protection Settlement with Nationstar Mortgage December 7, 2020

Man Sentenced to Four Years in Prison for Chasing Woman and Two Small Children with Imitation Rifle During Attempted Robbery – The defendant was motivated by anti-Asian bias Dec 3, 2020 Attorney General Grewal Issues Directive to Further Transform State's Juvenile Justice System Dec 3, 2020

AG Grewal Announces Settlement with Home Depot over Data Breach that Compromised Personal Data of Millions – NJ to Receive more than \$579,000 Share of \$17.5 Million Settlement Nov 24, 2020

Man Charged with Human Trafficking for Allegedly Prostituting 16-year-old Girl at Hotel in Trenton Nov 23, 2020

AG Grewal Announces Actions Against 5 Doctors for Indiscriminately Prescribing Powerful Opioids in Exchange for Kickbacks from the Opioid Manufacturer Insys Therapeutics Nov 23, 2020

AG Grewal, DCR, DCJ Announce New Web Portal for Online Filing of Harassment, Discrimination and Bias Incident Complaints Nov 23, 2020

Attorney General Grewal Announces Arrest of New Jersey Man for Illegally Trafficking Untraceable "Ghost Guns" in Paterson Area – Ghost guns and assault rifles seized by Division of Criminal Justice & Paterson Police Department Nov 20, 2020

Man Sentenced to Prison for Assuming Identity of Account Holder and Using Fraudulently Obtained Debit Card to Steal Over \$67,000 Nov 19, 2020

AG Grewal Announces Settlement with Apple for Misleading Consumers about iPhone Problems NJ Will Receive More than \$3 Million to Resolve Allegations Involving Unexpected iPhone Shutdowns, Battery Issues, and Slowdowns Caused by Software Updates Nov 18, 2020

**11/17** - <u>Man Convicted at Socially Distanced Jury Trial of Conspiring to Steal \$17,000 in Checks from the New Jersey Department of Labor</u>

**11/16** - <u>AG Grewal Files Lawsuit Alleging Academy Bus Defrauded NJ Transit by Not Reporting Missed</u> Bus Trips, Charging for Trips that Never Happened - *Fraud Allegedly Cost NJ Transit over \$15 Million; Four Individuals Also Named as Defendants* 

**11/10** - <u>Professional Boards Revoke Licenses of Engineering Executive Involved in Criminal Pay-to-Play</u> <u>Scheme</u>

**11/06** - <u>Man Sentenced to Seven Years in State Prison for Traveling From California to New Jersey in</u> <u>Attempt to Sexually Assault an 11-Year-Old Girl</u>

**11/04** - <u>Statement of Attorney General Gurbir S. Grewal on Constitutional Amendment Legalizing Adult-Use Cannabis</u>

**Updates from the Federal Highway Administration** 





# Join FHWA for the EDC-6 Virtual Summit

<u>Registration</u> is open for the EDC-6 summit. This year's event will be held virtually in three half-day sessions on December 8, 9, and 10.

The summit brings together transportation leaders and frontline professionals responsible for developing and delivering highway projects. We welcome participation from all of our partners—State transportation departments, local agencies, federal land management agencies, tribes, and industry.

The <u>seven initiatives</u> featured at the summit include strategies to increase engagement with people, new applications of products to preserve and repair infrastructure, and improved processes to save time on project delivery and incident management. This event will also feature an innovation showcase that will highlight homegrown ideas being deployed across the country.

At this event, you will learn about the featured EDC-6 innovations such as <u>e-Ticketing and digital as-builts</u>. This innovation improves the tracking, exchange, and archiving of materials tickets and enhances the future usability of as-built plans for operations, maintenance, and asset management. This process can result in increased project safety and quality through efficient data gathering and sharing.

To learn more about the featured innovations and other events that will take place during the event, <u>view the</u> <u>draft agenda here</u>.



# Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Program Offers Free Online Technical Assistance and Training

#### By Tamara Redmon, FHWA Office of Safety

FHWA's Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Program released two resources in the past couple of years, including free online technical assistance and training.

As mentioned in the fall 2018 edition of the <u>Pedestrian and Bike Forum Newsletter</u>, FHWA published the <u>Guide for Scalable Risk Assessment Methods for Pedestrians and Bicyclists</u> (and accompanying <u>Areawide</u> <u>Exposure Tool</u> [Microsoft® Excel download]) that outlines eight sequential steps to develop risk values and describes the scope and nature of each step, including guiding principles.

Practitioners can use these scalable risk assessment methods to evaluate pedestrian and bicyclist risk at different geographic scales. These evaluations can then inform program and project funding decisions. Free technical assistance is still available through the fall, and virtual sessions are provided. The team recently completed a well-received 3-hour training with the State of Arizona with more than 90 attendees.

FHWA released its <u>Bikeway Selection Guide</u> a year ago. This resource helps transportation practitioners consider trade-offs and make decisions to accelerate the delivery of high-quality bicycle networks. FHWA will continue to offer free technical assistance and workshops on the guide through spring 2021.

Throughout 2020, FHWA will offer this workshop virtually.

Participants will review online training materials before joining an interactive, 3-hour online event to learn more about how to apply the Bikeway Selection Guide to plans and projects.

The first virtual training took place on July 9. In addition to supporting the resources mentioned above, the Office of Safety offers quarterly webinars on topics of interest.

FHWA hosted a two-part webinar series with 2,109 attendees on Enhancing Mobility, Access, and Safety for Pedestrians on April 28 and April 30.

Part 1 provided information on how pedestrians with visual impairments travel and how changes in engineering have influenced their safety and mobility.

Part 2 explored wayfinding for pedestrians who are blind or have low vision and showcased various strategies for aiding navigation along streets and crossing locations. The recorded webinars are available online.

FHWA and the Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center (PBIC) have developed and recorded a number of webinars over the years. The PBIC archives of the webinars are <u>available online</u>.

Here is a list of the most recent webinars:

- Developing and Delivering Pedestrian Safety Projects.
- STEP UP Campaign for Pedestrian Safety.
- Quick Build Networks for All.
- Considerations for Selecting Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon (PHB) Locations.
- Improving Pedestrian and Bicyclist Safety in Work Zones.
- Teaching Bicycle and Pedestrian Topics to University Students.
- Improving Intersection Safety for All Road Users.

For more information, to schedule a workshop, or for virtual assistance, please contact Tamara Redmon at *tamara.redmon@dot.gov* or Shawn Turner at *s-turner@tti.tamu.edu*.

# FHWA Calls for Comment on 11<sup>th</sup> Edition of the MUTCD

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) on December 11<sup>th</sup> proposed wide-ranging revisions to the "Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways" (MUTCD) – the first comprehensive update in more than 10 years to advance traffic operations and safety in states and cities nationwide.

The proposed 11th Edition of the MUTCD will be previewing in the *Federal Register* on Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup>.

The MUTCD is the national standard for traffic signs, signals, and pavement markings that guide us on our nation's streets and highways. The proposed revisions offer many proven advancements while remaining flexible to accommodate newer technologies and operational strategies.

Among other improvements, the proposed updates reflect state-of-the-art traffic research to help transportation agencies prepare for automated vehicles and other cutting-edge technologies.

Features for vulnerable road users include the rectangular rapid-flashing beacon, expanded traffic signal warrants, and an array of roadway treatments for cyclists – many of which have been proven through the experimentation process defined in the MUTCD.

The update is incorporating the results of over 150 Official Experiments of novel traffic control devices and applications, Official Interpretations, Interim Approvals, and other research conducted both independently and by the Traffic Control Device Consortium Pooled Fund.

In brief, there are more than 600 proposed changes, comprehensively described in the Notice.

A mark-up document of the proposed MUTCD text and separate documents containing the proposed Figures and Tables will be available when the public docket officially opens for comment on Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup>.

As part of the process of updating the MUTCD, FHWA will gather feedback from state and local traffic engineers and other traffic control device stakeholders, and the public in general, from the docket that is now open for public comment.

# Updates from the USDOT Office of Inspector General

The Office of Inspector General works within the Department of Transportation to promote effectiveness and head off, or stop, waste, fraud and abuse in departmental programs. We do this through audits and investigations. OIG also consults with the Congress about programs in progress and proposed new laws and regulations.



U.S. Department of Transportation

Office of Inspector General

# Virginia Woman Charged for Aiming Laser Pointer at Aircraft

On November 2, 2020, the USAO for the Eastern District of Virginia filed an information charging Amanda Robinson with aiming the beam of a laser pointer at an aircraft and the flight path of the same aircraft.

On June 4, 2020, Robinson attended a demonstration in Richmond, Virginia, and used a laser pointer to illuminate a law enforcement aircraft flying overhead. Robinson struck the aircraft with the laser multiple times, causing the pilots to experience temporary blindness.

DOT-OIG conducts this investigation with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Richmond Police Department, and the Henrico County Sheriff's Office.

## New Jersey Moving Company Owner and Employee Plead Guilty in Connection with Defrauding Customers

On November 19, 2020, in the U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey, Lola Larios pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to commit wire fraud. On November 20, Lior Atiyas pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to commit wire fraud and one count of conspiracy to commit health care fraud.

According to court documents and statements made in Court, Atiyas devised a scheme to enrich himself and his moving company. He used several names to conceal his company's true identity, including Premier Relocations LLC, Metro Van Lines, Inc., and others. Between January 2016 and January 2019, Atiyas and Larios, Atiyas' employee, extorted customers by quoting them "low ball" price estimates for moving household goods. Once the goods were loaded on trucks, Atiyas and Larios directed employees to raise moving prices to totals that were often two or three times more than initial quotes. Customers were refused their goods until they paid higher prices.

Atiyas also admitted to participating in a scheme to defraud Medicaid by generating false paystubs and employment documents to obtain Medicaid benefits for an uncharged conspirator.

Read the full article



# **FTA Drug and Alcohol Newsletter**

The final 2020 issue of the FTA Drug and Alcohol Newsletter is now available.

Issue 70 includes information on the Drug and Alcohol Program Virtual National Conference to be held in 2021, MIS Reporting and MIS Frequently Asked Questions, who should be tested after an accident, and much more.

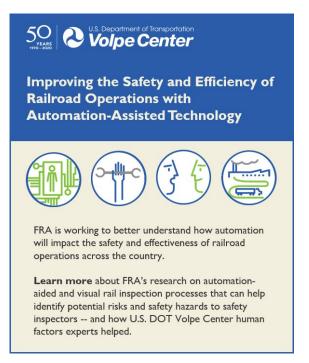
#### FTA Updated Frequently Asked Questions about COVID-19

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) is working closely with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other Federal partners to provide guidance to the public transportation industry in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19). Today, FTA posted seven revised <u>Frequently Asked Questions</u> (FAQs) regarding COVID-19 on its website that cover FTA formula funding under the Emergency Relief (ER) Program, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act and ER funding requirements, civil rights, and administrative relief.

FTA's COVID-19 website

# Updates from the USDOT Volpe Center





FRA is working to understand better how automation will impact the safety and effectiveness of railroad operations across the country.

**Learn more** about FRA's research on automation-aided and visual rail inspection processes that can help identify potential risks and safety hazards to safety inspectors -- and how U.S. DOT Volpe Center human factors experts helped.





# **Boost Your Child Passenger Safety Knowledge and Skills**

The National Safety Council is releasing a free introductory e-learning course entitled "Car Seat Basics," to help participants understand the four phases of child passenger safety.

These training pieces are intended to boost your child passenger safety knowledge and skills to help keep children safe in and around vehicles. Click on one of the links below and begin your training today!

E-Learnings

<u>Car Seat Basics</u> – Now Available! Keep children safe in cars as they grow by completing all or specific modules on rear-facing and forward-facing car seat use, as well as booster seat and seat belt use.

**National Safety Council Children in Hot Cars Training:** Learn the three primary circumstances that have led to children dying in hot cars and what we can do to prevent these deaths (course takes about 15 minutes to complete).

Click here to go to the NSC webpage for this training



What's Happening in the World of Automated Vehicles, Artificial Intelligence, and Electric Vehicles



# Occupant Safety in Vehicles Equipped with Automated Driving Systems, Part 1: Initial Evaluation of Usability, Stability, and Injury Prediction Capabilities

https://rosap.ntl.bts.gov/view/dot/50712

Testing the collision injury potential of automated vehicles released by the U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

# Occupant Safety in Vehicles Equipped with Automated Driving Systems, Part 3: Biofidelity Evaluation of GHBMC M50-OS Against Laboratory Sled Tests

#### https://rosap.ntl.bts.gov/view/dot/50709

Testing restraint systems of automated vehicles released by the U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

#### This new feature is about to make electric cars way easier to use

Detroit Free Press

Automakers and suppliers worldwide have agreed to a system that makes it possible to charge electric vehicles and plug-in hybrids without ever actually plugging them into a wall outlet.

Luxury vehicles like the \$57,900 BMW 530e plug-in hybrid and \$2 million McLaren Speedtail are ready for the system now but expect more attainable EVs to offer it soon.

A technology to simplify using a product hardly anybody has, wireless charging for electric cars may initially look like the answer to a question nobody asked. But it's the kind of convenience people get used to fast, making it easier to own and use vehicles that are becoming increasingly common.

If you use wireless charging for your phone, you know how quickly having to plug in seems as old-fashioned and laborious as carrying a bucket of well water to your house. People will get used to wireless vehicle charging just as quickly.

Click here to read the full article

# **Miscellaneous Traffic Safety Points of Interest**



# What are those big orange balls on power lines?

This might not be "ground traffic safety" related, but.... Have you ever seen those big yellow, orange, white or red balls hanging from power lines and wondered what they're used for?

They're called visibility marker balls or marker balls. You'll often find them near major freeway crossings, around airports, by mountain passes, and in the deep valley areas. They weigh about 17 pounds each.

The marker balls are placed on power lines to make the conductor crossings visible to aircraft. Helicopters and small aircraft often fly low near freeways and usually fly low while approaching an airport. Adding to that air medical helicopters will land on the highways or close by to medivac crash victims to a trauma center.

When flying, the conductors and skyline become almost invisible against the terrain — especially the skyline wires.

Many of the marker balls are required by the Federal Aviation Administration, like the ones near airports.

Over the years, other locations have also been identified that are particularly hard to see.

Next time you're driving past a marker ball, remember that they're used for the flying aircraft's safety and to protect the electrical infrastructure.



# Legal Update Traffic & Police Related



Some information in this Newsletter is courtesy of: Muni-Mail. 2000 Hamilton Ave. Hamilton. NJ Kenneth Vercammen & Associates, 2053 Woodbridge Ave, Edison, NJ www.njlaws.com https://www.justia.com/ https://law.justia.com/ Oyez Cornell Law School, Ithaca, NY International Law Enforcement Educators and Trainers Association Legal Information Institute, 477 Myron Taylor Hall, Cornell Law School, Ithaca, NY Police Chief Magazine J. Harris Academy of Police Training www.JHARRISTRAINING.com Law360, a LexisNexis® Company Jason T. Komninos Esq https://www.jasonkomninos.com/ Fed Agent.com The information in this Newsletter does not constitute legal advice and does not establish an attorney-client relationship. If you need legal advice, please contact an attorney directly.

#### Governor Murphy Signs Legislation to Bring Changes to the Use of Body Worn Cameras by New Jersey Law Enforcement

S1163 Requires Every Patrol Officer to Wear a Body Camera and A4312 Regulates the Use of Body Worn Cameras by Law Enforcement Officers

#### **Executive Order Establishes Working Group to Further Facilitate Implementation of Body Worn Cameras**

Acting on a commitment to promote further transparency in policing and build trust between police officers and the communities they serve, on November 24<sup>th</sup>, Governor Murphy signed two pieces of legislation (<u>S1163</u> and <u>A4312</u>), which concern the use of body-worn cameras by members of law enforcement. The Governor also signed <u>Executive Order No. 201</u>, which establishes a 14-member Interagency Working Group to provide recommendations to the Governor's Office and Attorney General regarding technology solutions to facilitate the statewide implementation of body-worn cameras in law enforcement agencies. The Working Group will identify barriers to adopting body-worn cameras and recommend technology solutions to facilitate their implementation.

#### Governor Murphy Signs "Daniel's Law"

On November 20<sup>th</sup> Governor Murphy signed legislation (<u>A1649</u>), which protects the home addresses and telephone numbers of judges, prosecutors, and law enforcement officers from public disclosure. The bill, known as "Daniel's Law," is named in honor of Daniel Anderl, the late son of U.S. District Court Judge Esther Salas. Daniel fell victim to a senseless act of gun violence committed by an individual who had compiled a dossier of personal information about Judge Salas, including the judge's home address.

#### New Law – AG to Establish Records on Certain Data

<u>A-1076</u> was signed into law on November 8th it requires the AG to collect, record, analyze, and report specific prosecutorial and criminal justice data.

#### **New Law - Junior Firefighters' Auxiliary Members**

<u>S-238/A-1106</u> was signed into law by the Governor on November 20<sup>th</sup>; it revises law governing training and duties of Junior Firefighters' Auxiliary members.

# NJ Legislative Bills Introduced or with Recent Action Related to Police and Traffic

<u>Senate Bill S1602</u> Requires driver's license examination to include questions on distracted driving; creates violation for motorists to talk or text on hand-held wireless devices while vehicle is temporarily stopped.

2/13/2020 Introduced in the Senate, Referred to Senate Transportation Committee

12/10/2020 Reported from Senate Committee with Amendments, 2nd Reading

12/10/2020 Referred to Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee

<u>Senate Bill S3241</u> Requires the chief law enforcement officer of municipal Police departments to hold two community roundtables on Police relations each year.

12/10/2020 Introduced in the Senate, Referred to Senate Law and Public Safety Committee

<u>Assembly Bill A4960</u> Prohibits law enforcement officers from administering anesthetic or sedative during arrest or traffic stop.

11/12/2020 Introduced, Referred to Assembly Law and Public Safety Committee

<u>Assembly Bill A4656</u> Authorizes the creation of local civilian review boards to review police operations and conduct; appropriates \$600,000. Identical Bill Number S2963.

9/17/2020 Introduced, Referred to Assembly Community Development and Affairs Committee

<u>Assembly Bill 4392</u> Requires law enforcement officers and recruits to undergo self-defense training; appropriates \$250,000 to Police Training Commission.

7/16/2020 Introduced, Referred to Assembly Law and Public Safety Committee.

## Supreme Court of The United States DERay Mckesson v John Doe No.19–1108. Decided November 2, 2020

Petitioner DeRay Mckesson organized a demonstration in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, to protest a shooting by a local police officer. The protesters, allegedly at Mckesson's direction, occupied the highway in front of the police headquarters. As officers began making arrests to clear the highway, an unknown individual threw a "piece of concrete or a similar rock-like object," striking respondent Officer Doe in the face. Officer Doe suffered devastating injuries in the line of duty, including loss of teeth and brain trauma.

Though the culprit remains unidentified, Officer Doe sought to recover damages from Mckesson on the theory that he negligently staged the protest in a manner that caused the assault.

The District Court dismissed the negligence claim as barred by the First Amendment.

A divided panel of the Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit reversed.

US Supreme Court vacate the judgment of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, and remand the case to the state court for further proceedings.

Click here to read the Cornell Law review of this case

# FBI Legal Digest U.S. Supreme Court Cases, 2019–2020 Term

Of the 63 cases heard by the U.S. Supreme Court during the 2019–2020 term, there were several criminal and civil law cases that could affect the investigative and employment interests of the law enforcement community. The cases dealt with investigative detention, the insanity defense, cross-border shootings, international child abduction, and employment discrimination. For the 2020-2021 term, the Court will hear cases on the issues of "chokeholds" and a debate on the definition of "seizure" under the Fourth Amendment.

This article offers brief synopses of the cases and their holdings. Law enforcement personnel from state, municipal, and county agencies should be aware that their local laws, regulations, and policies may provide greater protections for citizens in their jurisdictions or place additional limitations on law enforcement actions than described in the following cases, which were decided on the U.S. and not state constitutions.

Click here to read the full article on us-supreme-court-cases-2019 2020-term



#### **KDOT** demonstrates disaster response using drones

#### Agency continues efforts in national UAS program called BEYOND

The Kansas Department of Transportation's Division of Aviation completed a field exercise recently to demonstrate the capabilities of drones being used for infrastructure inspections and disaster response.

Bridge inspectors, public safety officials, universities, and UAS manufacturers worked side-by-side with KDOT team members on this exercise.

The Capabilities Exercise, or CAPEX, showed how drones can:

- save time and money on transportation infrastructure inspections;
- allow state agencies to examine disaster sites in emergency response situations;
- and expand economic opportunities through transportation using innovative technologies.

"Safety is our top priority, and we seek every opportunity to employ better transportation solutions for citizens across our state," said Kansas Transportation Secretary Julie Lorenz.

Click here to read the full press release

# Your car's emergency flashers could get a major upgrade soon - and here's why

Detroit Free Press

One of the oldest and possibly least effective auto safety features may be getting a 21st-century upgrade.

A new system to improve the visibility of vehicles stranded by the side of the road could help reduce thousands of collisions and hundreds of deaths a year. The system could be available nearly immediately if supplier Emergency Safety Solutions (ESS) gets regulatory approval.

Every year from 2016 through 2018, nearly 72,000 people in the U.S. were involved in a crash that included a disabled vehicle, according to research ESS commissioned.

The new system is designed to change the flash rate of the four-way hazard lights on cars. Current emergency flashers blink at a rate of about 1.5 flashes per second. About five flashes a second is best, according to research ESS used to develop its system, which it calls the Hazard Enhanced Lighting Package (HELP).

The HELP system can easily be installed in cars being manufactured and to newer cars already on the road with a simple software upgrade. The flashers are also automatically activated if the vehicle's airbags deploy.

NHTSA is evaluating the system. There's no announced schedule for a decision,

Click here to read the full article

#### **100th Anniversary School Safety Patrol with AAA Mid-Atlantic** CBS 6 WTVR-TV

RICHMOND, Va. - School safety patrols started in 1920 by AAA to help kids keep each other safe. Now, 100 years later, this program is still going strong and serves as a leadership program for many students and a way for kids to learn road safety. Hear from Morgan Dean of AAA Mid-Atlantic and Kayo Cook, the 2019-2020 Outstanding School Safety Patroller, about the impact this program has in schools.

Click here to view the tv show segment



# **Training Events**



\*\*\*Note – The list of training classes is in four categories:

- Online / On-Demand training videos/roll call videos are listed first
- Webinar Training Events are listed second
- Online Training Conferences are listed third
- Person to Person Live Training Events are listed last

# Online / On-Demand Training Videos – Roll Call Videos



# December LEL Webinar Recording Now Available

A recording of Chief Brett Railey's presentation, "Reinvesting in Traffic Safety Post-2020," is available for viewing, along with the accompanying slide deck.

Watch the recorded webinar >>

Download Chief Railey's PowerPoint presentation >>



# Today's Tip for November 10, 2020 Risks of Drone Use in Public Safety

Gordon Graham here with Today's Tip from Lexipol.

Today, I want to talk to my public safety friends who are considering the use of unmanned aircraft systems. Drones are becoming common in public safety operations. They are relatively inexpensive and can offer many benefits. But they are not without risk. If your agency is considering such a program, here a couple of things to think about. <u>Click here to access this Tip of the day</u>



# Today's Tip for November 17, 2020 Public Recording of Law Enforcement

Gordon Graham here with Today's Tip from Lexipol.

Today's Tip is for all public safety professionals, but especially for law enforcement. I want to talk to you about cameras. They're everywhere. People are recording everything. Everyone has a camera literally at their fingertips. Click here to access this Tip of the day



## Today's Tip for November 24, 2020

#### **Firearm Safety at Home for Cops**

Gordon Graham here with Today's Tip from Lexipol.

Today's Tip is for any law enforcement professional who stores firearms at home. Let's face it. Firearms are part of law enforcement. You probably bring your duty weapon home. Perhaps you simply keep a firearm for home defense. Click here to access this Tip of the day



# Today's Tip for December 8, 2020 Stress Management Tips for Public Safety

WFBINAT

Gordon Graham here with Today's Tip from Lexipol.

Today's Tip is for my law enforcement friends. Everyone knows that law enforcement can be stressful. Today l'm going to offer some suggestions for protecting yourself. <u>Click here to access this Tip of the day</u>





# National TSRP "Traffic Tuesday" Sessions: EDR Basics for Prosecutors & Law Enforcement

Date:December 15, 2020Times:2:00 pm to 3:30 pmCost:Free

In DUI Manslaughter & Vehicular Homicide Cases, some of the most critical information in determining causation is related to a suspect's vehicle and the dynamics of that vehicle's motion and speed. Such information is often readily available to prosecutors and law enforcement as most modern vehicles are equipped with a "black box" known as an "Electronic Data Recorder" or EDR. However, many prosecutors and law enforcement are unfamiliar with the specifics of this technology and how it can assist in these important cases.

This session will explain the basics of EDR technology so that both prosecutors and law enforcement will be familiar with the types of data such devices record, which vehicles are equipped with such devices, and how one is able to accurately and reliably obtain this crucial information from EDRs. It will also examine case studies to explain how such EDR technology and the data provided by such technology can be useful to both prosecutors and law enforcement to enhance the investigation and prosecution of DUI Manslaughter & Vehicular Homicide Cases.

https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4186574547929151502



Date:December 15, 2020Times:1:30 pm to 3:00 pm ETCost:Free

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Traffic Incident Management Program invites you to register for the Talking TIM webinar to learn about:

- Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) Role in TIM Dale Picha, Texas Department of Transportation will discuss key ITE efforts to improve traffic safety as a part of the "Meet the Executive Leadership Group" series.
- TIM Benefit/Cost Tool Pavle Bujanovic, Federal Highway Administration's Turner Fairbanks Highway Research Center, will demonstrate the free, available tool to help agencies quantify the benefits from their TIM Programs.
- Getting the Most from Your National Responder Training Reports Katie Belmore, HNTB, will discuss how best to share the reports and spur greater training.
- JAWS Debris Remover Demo and KC Scout Program Overview Marcus Slaughter, Missouri Department of Transportation, will demonstrate their truck-based machines that move debris off highways and roads without workers having to exit the vehicle. He will also provide an overview of the Kansas City Scout program.

Click here to register for this webinar



# PennDOT - LTAP Drop-in Session - Sign Inventory Management

Date:	December 17, 2020
Times:	12:00 pm to 1:00 pm ET
Cost:	Free

Signs play an important role in our transportation network. Not only do road users rely on them for information and guidance, but they have been proven to improve safety on our roadways, which makes them one of the most important assets you own. Therefore, it is important to stay on top of your sign inventory. Whether you use software to manage your sign inventory or pen and paper, this session will go over the basics to maintain a good sign inventory—such as retroreflectivity, sign and post characteristics, etc. This session will also allow you to share how you manage your sign inventory as well as learn from other municipalities.

Click here to register for this webinar



Date:	December 17, 2020
Times:	1:00 pm to 3:00 pm EDT
Cost:	Free

Reducing rural roadway departure crashes requires an integrated, disciplined approach. State, local, and tribal agencies – can discover how safety action plans can help prioritize safety improvements and justify investment decisions.

#### **Presenters and Topics:**

- Adriane McRae, Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development, will provide an overview of Louisiana's statewide roadway departure implementation plan, how it was developed, and what LaDOTD is doing to implement the plan.
- **Cassie Parker**, South Central Planning and Development Commission, Louisiana, will present on the coalition's regional safety plan that has advanced safety within the region and accelerated the implementation of Louisiana's SHSP at the local level.
- **Nikki Davis,** Island County, Washington, will give an overview of their Local Road Safety Plan (LRSP) including the data driven approach that was used to identify and select projects to minimize the frequency of run-off-the-road crashes.
- Joe Marek, Clackamas County, Oregon, will present on the County's LRSP with a focus on the roadway departure emphasis area.

#### Registration: https://collaboration.fhwa.dot.gov/dot/fhwa/WC/Lists/Seminars/DispForm.aspx?ID=2562

\*\*\*\*Please Note: If you are not a USDOT employee, you must log in with an FHWA External Collaboration Account in order to register. Non-USDOT employees who have never participated in an FHWA webinar must create an account at <u>https://collaboration.fhwa.dot.gov/FBA/MembershipRequest.aspx</u> in order to register for this webinar.\*\*\*\*

There is a flyer with more information in the Appendix of this Newsletter.

2020

# **ILEXIPOL** Gordon Graham on Risk Management

Date:	December 17,	
Times:	1:00 pm ET	
Cost:	Free	

Join Dr. David Black, founder of Cordico interviews Gordon Graham in a discussion on risk management, leadership, and supporting first responders.



# Share the Keys Facilitator training

Date:January 15, 2021Times:9:00 amCost:Free

NJM is offering Free Online Facilitator training for their "Share the Keys" Parent/Teen Graduated Driver's License orientation to Law Enforcement Officers and Teachers.

Share the Keys is a 60- to 90-minute research-based, data-driven orientation on:

- Understanding the GDL laws
- Supporting the GDL at home
- Being a good role model
- Increasing practice driving hours
- Controlling the keys

There is also a course flyer in the Appendix of this Newsletter.

Click here to register for this training

# National TSRP "Traffic Tuesday" Sessions: The Opioid Epidemic & Impaired Driving

Date:	January 19, 2021
Times:	2:00 pm to 3:30 pm
Cost:	Free

The U.S. federal government declared a national public health emergency in October 2017, to address the national opioid crisis. This was a result of the unprecedented number of deaths due to drug overdoses in 2015 and 2016 with a majority of those involving opioids. While drug overdose deaths due to the opioid epidemic have been extensively covered, relatively little has been reported on the impact to drug impaired driving. Data on the rise of fentanyl and other opioids in impaired driving casework will be presented along with a review of toxicology analysis, opioid impairment, case reports and the poly-pharmacy commonly observed with these cases.

https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5131372796284240655

# Person to Person – Live Training Events

\*\*Please check with the training provider to ensure that the scheduled classes are still taking place.

Nothing Scheduled



# Quote of the month

"Great Leaders do not set out to be a leader...they set out to make a difference. It is never about the role – always about the goal" unknown

# Next scheduled meeting is on January 6, 2021

<u>Remember the five tenets of Below 100</u> Wear your seat belt Watch your speed Wear your vest WIN: What's Important Now Complacency kills



&

When in traffic: Wear your high visibility safety vest !! Stay Safe & Healthy

Don't forget to visit the association's website regularly, <u>www.njptoa.com</u>; the site is updated periodically. It is also the place to go for resources and updates about the association. If you have anything for the website, please contact one of the association's officers.

# Appendix

# **Newsletter Information**

If any member would like to submit an article, information about events and training, or anything you want to spread the word about dealing with traffic safety, please email it to Rich Maxwell at <u>rmaxwell@njptoa.org</u>

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# SPECIAL OFFER for First Responders AAA Discounted Membership Offer

Thank you for everything you're doing to keep us safe. We want to help keep you safe too.



AAA is introducing a new product to offer our local heroes a little peace of mind as they work to keep our communities safe and healthy. The new offer for first responders and healthcare professionals includes 50% off primary dues for new Members and Car Care savings and one free associate membership for existing Members.

- 50% off Primary dues (all membership levels)
   Classic Primary 50% OFF and 1 FREE associate
   Plus Primary 50% OFF and 1 FREE associate
   Premier Primary 50% OFF and 1 FREE associate
- First associate membership FREE
- 50% off second or more associate memberships
- Standard renewal dues at first renewal

#### ALREADY A MEMBER?

- One FREE associate membership (all membership levels)
- Standard renewal dues at next renewal

#### NEW MEMBERS Join AAA Today Call 866-MEMBERS (866-636-2377) Offer expires: 12/31/20



Offers available in ACA territory only. Join offer only available to NEW MEMBERS. Normal dues apply at renewal. There is an initial 7-day waiting period for some services. For a complete list of benefits, exclusions, and restrictions, go to AAA.com/Benefits. ©2020 AAA Club Alliance 20 686996



Insurance Group

# Facilitator Free Virtual Training

Friday, January 15, 2021 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Facilitator training is an engaging and interactive professional development workshop that provides participants with the tools and resources needed to effectively deliver and administer a successful STK program.

Share the Keys is a 60- to 90-minute research-based, data-driven orientation on:

- Understanding the GDL laws
- Supporting the GDL at home
- Being a good role model
- Increasing practice driving hours
- Controlling the keys

Training workshops are conducted throughout the state, and include a comprehensive review of the research and theories used to build the evidence-based content and delivery style of the program.

All participants who successfully complete the training will become certified Share the Keys facilitators and receive Continuing Education Units (CEUs) provided by the New Jersey Association of Physical Health Education Recreation and Dance.

# **Click Here To Register**

SHARE THE KEYS IS AVAILABLE AT NO COST TO HIGH SCHOOLS IN NEW JERSEY AND PENNSYLVANIA.

Learn more at SharetheKeys.com