

VERMONT GOVERNOR'S HIGHWAY SAFETY PROGRAM

Monthly Newsletter April / May 2017

Scott Davidson Leaves the GHSP

The team here at the Governor's Highway Safety Program (GHSP) would like to take the opportunity to thank Scott Davidson for his fine leadership of the GHSP. The past two years of his work have been nothing short of remarkable. The program moved over to the Agency of Transportation from the Department of Public Safety when Scott came in as Chief. Scott had only two full-time staff and a few contractors accomplishing the work. During that time, He added several new members to the staff, was able to decrease the carry-forward funding and put the program on a solid foundation. In Spring of 2016, the GHSP staff along with several others within VTrans were recognized for their hard work during this transition period as the **2015 Team of the Year**. Most recently, he was able to procure funding approval for the new Grant Electronic Application and Reporting System (G.E.A.R.S).



We are grateful to Scott for his efforts! They are truly appreciated. Scott recently accepted a promotion with the Department of Motor Vehicles Enforcement Division. We wish him the best in his new role.

Moving forward, during this interim period, Allison Laflamme will be the GHSP Acting Chief. She can be contacted at Allison.laflamme@vermont.gov or at (802) 498-8079.

Vermont ranked worst in the US for distracted driving

A new study has revealed that Vermont is worst in the nation when it comes to distracted driving, even with a hand-held phone ban in place.

The study by [Zendrive](#), which collects smartphone data to analyze driver behavior, looked at three months of data from 570 million trips and three million drivers. It concluded that the Green Mountain State is home to the greatest number of distracted drivers in the country.

The study also noted that out of the 570 million trips analyzed in the country, drivers used their phone 88 percent of the time. Also, taking your eyes off the road for two seconds increases the chances of a collision by more than 20 times.

Click It or Ticket is Just Around the Corner

The National Seat Belt Enforcement Mobilization runs from May 22 to June 4, 2017. The paid media runs from May 15th through June 4th. NHTSA has prepared a *Click It or Ticket* (CIOT) Products for Enforcement Action Kit (PEAK) to help law enforcement alert the public to prepare for maximum high-visibility seat belt enforcement. Materials can be found here.

High-visibility seat belt enforcement is important 24 hours a day, but nighttime is especially deadly for unbuckled occupants. In 2015, 57 percent of passenger vehicle occupants killed at night (6 p.m. – 5:59 a.m.) were not wearing their seat belts.

For more information on Vermont's 2017 *Click It or Ticket* efforts, email or call [Tom Fields](#), Law Enforcement Liaison - South at (802) 375-5913 or [Paul White](#), Law Enforcement Liaison - North at (802) 371-8674. Remember, *Buckle Up*.



From the 2017 NHTSA Campaign Calendar

April is "Distracted Driving" Month

DISTRACTED DRIVING:
Primary Message
"U DRIVE, U TEXT, U PAY"
Twitter Chat: #justdrive



Click It or Ticket 2017

May 15th to June 4th

Occupant Protection
Primary Message
"CLICK IT OR TICKET"



Our Mission Statement

Working toward the goal of "Zero Deaths" by promoting highway safety awareness through education and enforcement, thereby reducing crashes, saving lives, and improving the overall quality of life for those using Vermont's roadways.

FFY2018 Grant Applications Due in GEARS:
Friday, April 28th @ 3:00 PM
egrants.vermont.gov

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Young Adult Seatbelt Use

As most of you already know, Vermont's seatbelt use rating dropped last year from 86% to 80%. Like most states, we have a target demographic of 18 to 24 year old male drivers that are at the highest risk of injury and death from not using seatbelts.

Vermont Highway Safety Alliance and the Governor's Highway Safety Program have teamed up with [Hallstrom Motorsports](#) of Northfield to have Evan Hallstrom as our seatbelt use champion and role model. Evan is a fifteen year old male who drives a racecar in the ACT Late Model division at [Devils Bowl Speedway](#) in West Haven, Vermont, but, drives his street car with a learner's permit.

We look forward to working with Evan and the team at Hallstrom Motorsports to promote seatbelt use to our young drivers throughout Vermont. Hope to see you at the races this summer.

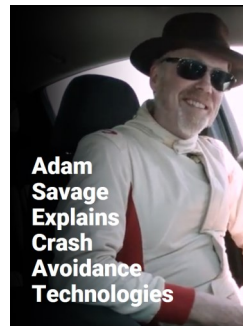


MythBuster's Adam Savage

Talks about New Vehicle Safety Technologies that Help Save Lives

In 2015, approximately one person died in a motor vehicle crash every 15 minutes. To help drive this number down, NHTSA has worked tirelessly to promote new vehicle technologies with the potential to help prevent crashes and save thousands of lives every year.

NHTSA teamed up with self-described science and technology champion Adam Savage to test and explain the value of each of these. Savage was part of the original duo that created and fronted Discovery Channel's MythBusters 10 years ago to educate and entertain millions of viewers around the world. [Check out all the videos!](#)



Police crack down on "Move Over" Law

RUTLAND, Vt.—Working along a busy highway can be dangerous, especially when passing drivers are breaking the law. We spent the morning on Route 4 in Castleton to see what law enforcement in Rutland County is doing to get drivers to move over for emergency workers. The Fair Haven and Castleton police and the Rutland County Sheriff's Department have teamed up with two towing companies to target drivers who aren't moving into the left lane when passing emergency vehicles.



For tow truck drivers working alongside a busy highway, it is a daily norm.

"I'm on this highway, I'm on old 4. I'm here, there and everywhere,"

View the full story [Police crack down on "Move Over" Law](#) at WCAX.com

New Research Indicates Anti-Drunk Driving Efforts Should Include Bicyclists and Pedestrians

Governors Highway Safety Association (GHSA) Executive Director Jonathan Adkins

*With Pedestrian Deaths Surging in 2016, Now is the Time for Action
Statement for attribution to*

WASHINGTON, D.C. - [State Highway Safety Offices](#) and their partners should broaden their anti-drunk driving campaigns to encourage bicyclists and pedestrians to consider safer transportation alternatives after heavy drinking. As the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) [reported today](#), the ratios of fatally injured alcohol-impaired bicyclists and pedestrians have not fallen as dramatically as the proportion of impaired motor vehicle drivers killed, and this remains a significant problem. In fact, surprisingly, more than one-third of pedestrians and one-fifth of bicyclists killed in crashes in 2014 were legally drunk.

Alcohol impairment can lead to unsafe behavior by bicyclists and pedestrians, as well as drivers. We agree with IIHS's recommendations to curtail overserving alcohol and to support more ride-sharing options. These strategies could complement the range of proven countermeasures to decrease risks for pedestrians and bicyclists and prevent deaths across the board for all road users. We also concur with IIHS that further research is needed to evaluate the effectiveness of efforts to reduce alcohol-impairment among bicyclists and pedestrians.

This IIHS research finding comes on the heels of GHSA's [annual pedestrian safety report](#), which projects an unprecedented 11% increase in pedestrian fatalities in 2016, further illustrating the need to recalibrate our traffic safety efforts to better protect all road users.

Need materials for your agency's Website or Social Media page? Visit the [Traffic Safety Marketing](#) website, NHTSA's official media resource for Highway Safety Professionals.

Deaths on Vermont Roadways

Year	Deaths
2012	77
2013	71
2014	44
2015	57
2016	63

16 Deaths as of
April 28th, 2017

Governor's Highway Safety Program

Governor's Highway Safety Program
Agency of Transportation
One National Life Drive
Montpelier, Vermont 05633

Visit our Website...

www.ghsp.vermont.gov

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If you have comments or suggestions for our newsletter, please send them to james.baraw@vermont.gov.