

# VERMONT GOVERNOR'S HIGHWAY SAFETY PROGRAM

Monthly Newsletter

July / August 2016

## Work Zone Safety Project

The Governor's Highway Safety Program (GHSP) and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) are pleased to announce the Work Zone Safety Project has been approved for \$50,000. This statewide initiative is a collaborative partnership between the Vermont Sheriff's Association (VSA) and the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) designed to enhance safety in work zones, specifically through speed and distracted driving enforcement.

Vermont's Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) classifies work zone safety as an area of significant emphasis. Work zones are inherently more hazardous for motorized and non-motorized traffic due to incidents of drivers not adhering to speed reduction warnings and driving distracted. Work zone safety is not only a Vermont concern, but nationally as well. In 2013, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) reported 67,523 traffic crashes occurred in work zones across the country. Of those crashes, 527 were fatal crashes resulting in 579 fatalities. While Vermont typically experiences a lower number of work zone crashes (251 from 2010 to 2014), an increased number of workers and motorists are injured in Vermont work zones every year.

The VSA will act as the overall project coordinator for this statewide effort, the GHSP will be sub-awarding each CSD \$3,570.00 to be used for speed and distracted driving enforcement in select work zones across the state. Working in partnership with the VSA, VTrans will utilize a pre-risk assessment tool to determine the high-risk work zone projects and coordinate with the VSA to deploy CSD deputies for enforcement. VTrans is excited about working with the VSA to improve the safety of our state's work zones. For information about this program, you can email [James Baraw](mailto:James.Baraw@vt.gov) with the GHSP or call at (802-760-9222).

## Vermont State Police Debut New Radar Technology

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Williston, Vt. July 7th, Vermont State Police troopers were brushing up on the ins-and-outs of some new technology Thursday.

Troopers from ten barracks across Vermont were in Williston learning about new radar speed trailers. VSP will deploy those across the state.

The new models help control traffic speed, but also allow law enforcement to collect more in-depth data related to speed and speed-induced crashes. VSP says the data will help law enforcement better police the state.

"We can't be everywhere doing speed enforcement. Deploying these in areas where we've seen problems of speed, particularly speed involving crashes was going to be our priority. That was going to be our priority. It was very important for us to get these out for the summer driving months in conjunction with operation strive that's on going," said Vermont State Police Lieutenant John Flannigan.

Vermont State Police were able to get the ten radar trailers thanks to a \$60-thousand Governor's Highway Safety Program grant. Those units will be deployed within the week.



Photo courtesy of WVNY-TV & WFFF-TV - © 2016 Nexstar Broadcasting.

## From the 2016 NHTSA Campaign Calendar

August is ...

**"Drive Sober or  
Get Pulled Over"**  
National Mobilization  
Aug 17th to Sept 5th



Twitter Chat:

**Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over.**

**"Back to School Safety Month"**

**Primary Message—Walk, Bike, and  
Ride to School Safely.**

### 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.*

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## State launches new road safety campaign

WCAX News, July 18th, 2016. Burlington, Vt. - It's a warning from the state of Vermont to their drivers emphasizing the most tragic consequences.

It's fairly routine now; the state of Vermont warns its drivers that distracted driving can lead to serious accidents and a new campaign began Monday.

"Yo, where are you?"

That's the question a distracted driver often can't answer when they are on the road.

A new PSA is the latest from the Vermont Highway Safety Alliance to discourage drivers from using their phone.

"Your first offense is \$160, your second is \$360," said Officer Chris Hoar, Northfield Police Department.

Hoar has responded to three crashes caused by distracted drivers in the past month and two of them involved injuries.

"The consequences can be a whole lot greater if someone's distracted for just a second to three seconds. It's quite possible that someone could have traveled the distance of a football field in that time," said Hoar. If you drive 55 miles an hour, in the time it takes



a three-second text you'll have already traveled 80 yards, nearly the length of a football field.

"We still see a number of drivers on our highways that are still driving, talking on a cellphone and distracted by other means," said Scott Davidson, Governor's Highway Safety Program.

In 2014, 404 Americans died in crashes where a driver was using their cellphone. Traveling fast enough to cover the length of a football field in three seconds, gives drivers little margin for error.

"A lot of departments are taking a zero tolerance policy," said Hoar. To avoid a tragic mistake making a simple game of basketball someone's last.

Data from the United States Department of Transportation shows drivers in the twenties are the boldest on the road. Drivers 15 to 19 are more cautious on the road. 13 percent of them admit to using their cell. As for 20 somethings, 39 percent use their phone. By the time drivers are age 50 or above, just 9 percent say they're distracted by their cellphone.

You can see both videos at... WCAX-TV [State launches new road safety campaign & GHSP Distracted Driving Campaign 2016](#)

To see more of our current GHSP Press Releases, visit the GHSP [Press Release](#) page at <http://ghsp.vermont.gov>

### Distracted Walking Facts

It has become such a big problem in the recent years that the National Safety Council, for the first time has included statistics on cell phone distracted walking. According to the *Injury Facts*, distracted walking incidents involving cell phones...

- Accounted for more than 11,100 injuries between 2000 and 2011.
- 52% of cell phone distracted walking injuries happen at home,
- 68% of those injured are women,
- 54% are age 40 or younger,
- Nearly 80% of the injuries were due to a fall.

While many communities are adding more paths and traffic-calming measures, there still is a long way to go to keep pedestrians safe. Malls surrounded by parking lots, few sidewalks, blind intersections and high traffic areas all contribute to pedestrian fatalities and injuries.

- In 2013, 6,100 pedestrians were killed by motor vehicles
- That same year, about 160,000 pedestrian injuries required medical attention
- 23 percent of deaths and injuries result from pedestrians darting into the street, with the majority of those younger than age 15. The number of pedestrian deaths has decreased significantly since the 1970s; and has hovered around 6,000, with a low of 5,300 in 2009.

Remember, "**Head Up, Phone Down.**"  
National Safety Council, News and Resources – Pedestrian Safety

SAVE the DATE VERMONT HIGHWAY SAFETY ALLIANCE 4<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING & CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 26, 2016  
MOUNT SNOW RESORT, DOVER, VT

Join professionals in to address highway safety issues

- Education
- Engineering
- Enforcement
- Emergency Services
- Speed
- Distraction
- Infrastructure
- Impaired Driving
- Occupant Protection
- Vulnerable Road Users



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For more information about the VHSA Meeting and Conference, contact:

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### Deaths on Vermont Roadways

Year	Deaths
2008	73
2009	73
2010	71
2011	54
2012	77
2013	71
2014	44
2015	57

**36 Deaths as of July 31st, 2016**

[NHTSA data shows traffic deaths up 7.7 percent in 2015](#)

## Governor's Highway Safety Program

Governor's Highway Safety Program  
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