

VERMONT

GOVERNOR'S HIGHWAY SAFETY PROGRAM

Monthly Newsletter

October / November 2016

As Teen-Involved Crash Deaths Spike 10 Percent, New Report Spotlights Older Teen Driver Behavior

WASHINGTON, D.C. – As [National Teen Driver Safety Week](#) approaches (October 16-22), a new report from the [Governors Highway Safety Association](#) (GHSA) shows that while much progress has been made in reducing teen driver-involved traffic crashes and deaths over the past decade, teen drivers are still 1.6 times more likely to be involved in a fatal crash than their adult counterparts, and teen-involved crash deaths spiked 10 percent in 2015. The report, funded by a grant from the Ford Motor Company Fund, also sheds light on data that show the improvement in fatal crash rates among 18- to 20-year-old drivers was considerably less than for their 15- to 17-year-old counterparts, and that older teen drivers are involved in more fatal crashes than younger teens.

The report, [Mission Not Accomplished: Teen Safe Driving, the Next Chapter](#), calls on [State Highway Safety Offices](#) and teen driving advocates to carefully monitor what is happening with teen-involved motor vehicle fatalities while expanding their focus to address the heightened crash risk for older teens. The 2015 data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) showing the jump in teen-involved crash deaths is... [Click Here](#) to read the rest of this GHSA Press Release.

VHSA Meeting and Conference

By Jim Baraw, GHSP Staff

The VHSA held its fourth Annual Meeting and Conference at the Mount Snow Grand Lodge Resort in West Dover, VT on October 26th. This gathering of professionals addressed highway safety issues relevant to Education, Engineering, Enforcement, and Emergency Services here in Vermont. This year's conference was attended by over one-hundred guests to include a wide variety of topical vendors. The Summit opened with a welcome by Erik Filkorn (VTrans), Glen Button (VHSA Chair), Chris Cole (Secretary, VTrans), and Joe Flynn (Deputy Commissioner, DPS). Topics during the day included: *The History of Fatal Crashes in Vermont*, *The New Strategic Highway Safety Plan*, *Lean - A New Way of Working Together*, *Making Media Partnerships Work*, and *Anyone Can Do Something - The New Campaign for 2017*.

During the luncheon, the 2016 Lifesaver Awards were presented by DMV Commissioner Rob Ide on behalf of the Governor's Highway Safety Program. This year's recipients were Engineering: Mandy White, (VTrans); The Fletcher Brush Award: Anson Tebbetts of the WCAX News Team; Lifesaver of the Year: Norman James, Associated General Contractors of Vermont and The Sergeant Michael Johnson Award presented to Thomas Fields, Governor's Highway Safety Program Law Enforcement Liaison and Retired Vermont State Police Captain.

In the afternoon, partners gave updates from the Federal Highway Administration, Local Motion, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Vermont State Police, Vermont Department of Motor Vehicles, American Association of Retired Persons, Project Road Safe, Youth Safety Council of Vermont, AT&T, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, and AAA Northern New England.

Need campaign materials for your agency's holiday enforcement plans? Visit the [Traffic Safety Marketing](#) website. NHTSA's communications resource for States, partner organizations, and highway safety professionals.

From the 2016 NHTSA Campaign Calendar

November 25th is ...
Thanksgiving Holiday Travel

OCCUPANT PROTECTION
Primary Message: **Buckle Up, Every Trip.**
Every Time.



November 25th – December 11th is ...
Pre-Holiday Season

IMPAIRED DRIVING
Primary Message: **Buzzed Driving Is Drunk Driving**

Twitter Chat: Buzzed Driving

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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Updating the Vermont Strategic Highway Safety Plan

The Office of Highway Safety is well underway to updating the Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP). This plan is required by the Federal Highway Administration of all State Departments of Transportation serving as the over-arching plan for highway safety in the State of Vermont. This plan is updated and revised every five years requiring input from the 4 "Es" of highway safety; Education, Engineering, Enforcement, and EMS. This plan is currently in revision for the 2016 through 2020 calendar year. Contributions are gathered from stakeholders through the Vermont Highway Safety Alliance (VHSA) Board and sub-committees. Data is the basis for the plan and Vermont's 5 year crash data is analyzed to identify the "Critical Emphasis Areas" (CEAs) for Vermont. Moving forward with the next SHSP edition, the CEAs are:

- CEA 1 Improve Infrastructure, 1A - Minimize Lane Departure, 1B – Improve the Design and Operation of Highway Intersections
- CEA 2 Curb Speeding and Aggressive Driving
- CEA 3 Increase Use of Occupant Protection
- CEA 4 Vulnerable Users, 4A – Increase Pedestrian Safety, 4B – Increase Bicycle Safety, 4C – Increase Motorcycle Safety
- CEA 5 Age Appropriate Solutions, 5A – Improve Younger Driver Safety (Under 25), 5B – Improve Older Driver Safety (65 and Over)
- CEA 6 Reduce Impaired Driving
- CEA 7 Curb Distracted Driving and Keep Drivers Alert

Next steps include identifying the related strategies and building connections with the underlying GHSP Highway Safety Plan and VTrans Highway Safety Improvement Plan. If you are interested in providing input into any of the CEA's or taking part in any of this planning process, please contact [Sue Clark](#) of the VHSA.

What is the "Traffic Records Assessment"

Every five years, all states must undergo the National Highway Traffic Safety Administrations Traffic Records (TR) Assessment to retain eligibility for State Traffic Safety Information System Improvement Grant (405C) funds. The assessment of the traffic records system is required by NHTSA to ensure that complete, accurate, and timely traffic safety data is collected, analyzed, and made available for decision-making at the

national, state, and local levels. This process is five-months long and when completed, will provide the data for improving the six core data systems: crash, driver, vehicle, roadway, citation and adjudication, and injury surveillance.

Using the online State Traffic Records Assessment Program (STRAP), independent subject matter experts from State, local, and other areas examine State responses to a uniform set of questions (392) and rate the responses against the ideal set out in the Traffic Records Program Assessment Advisory. The final report includes these ratings, recommendations, and considerations that the States may consider for working to improve their traffic records system performance. We will provide an update with the results of the Traffic Records Assessment in the January / February 2017 GHSP Newsletter and Website.

Deadliest Time of the Year Facts

Which major holiday resulted in the most crashes?

The National Safety Council (NSC) has released reports estimating the number of traffic accidents and fatalities that occur on major holidays, including **Christmas, New Year's, Thanksgiving, Memorial Day, Labor Day, and Independence Day.**

Which holiday is the deadliest traffic day?

Nearly half of all traffic fatalities that day involve alcohol, the most of any U.S. holiday, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). But **New Year's** Day isn't the deadliest of the year. That title belongs to Thanksgiving.

Among the list's top three days—**Thanksgiving, Labor Day and Independence Day**—an average of 550 Americans lose their lives on a holiday each year.

What time of day do most car crashes occur?

According to the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety, 31% of fatal drunk-driving accidents occur on the weekend, and the highest number of drunk drivers is on the road between **midnight and 3 a.m.** Fatal crashes are also four times higher at night than during the day.

Speed Trailers

The Bennington Banner

Bennington Vt — Bennington Police Chief Paul Doucette and Sgt. Cam Grande inspect the new speed trailer purchased through the Vermont

Governor's Highway Safety Program Bennington Police, along with the Bennington County

Sheriff's Department, received new "speed trailers" this week.



They are among seven police agencies in the state to receive them. The devices, which detect and display the speed of oncoming vehicles, are valued at \$8,000 each. They were bought with grant funds from the Vermont Governor's Highway Safety Program. Officers have been trained in their use.

According to a release from the Bennington Police, the trailers will be placed in areas where police suspect speeding is an issue. The machines also record the speeds of vehicles they detect. That data will be used to help police direct their patrols.

Deaths on Vermont Roadways

Year	Deaths
2011	54
2012	77
2013	71
2014	44
2015	57

57 Deaths as of November 9th, 2016

Governor's Highway Safety Program

Governor's Highway Safety Program
Agency of Transportation
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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.

Pictures from the 2016 VHSA Annual Meeting and Lifesaver Awards Ceremony



The Fletcher Brush Award presented to Anson Tebbetts of the WCAX News Team

Web links to the Award Recipient Nomination Information

[The Fletcher Brush Award](#)
[Anson Tebbetts](#)

[The Sergeant Michael Johnson Award](#)
[Tom Fields](#)



The Sergeant Michael Johnson Award presented to Thomas Fields, Governor's Highway Safety Program (Retired VSP Captain)



The Engineering Award presented to Mandy White of the VTrans

[The Engineering Award](#)
[Mandy White](#)

[The Lifesaver of the Year Award](#)
[Norm James](#)



Lifesaver of the Year presented to Norman James of AGC RoadSafe

