

# VERMONT

## GOVERNOR'S HIGHWAY SAFETY PROGRAM

Monthly Newsletter

February / March 2018

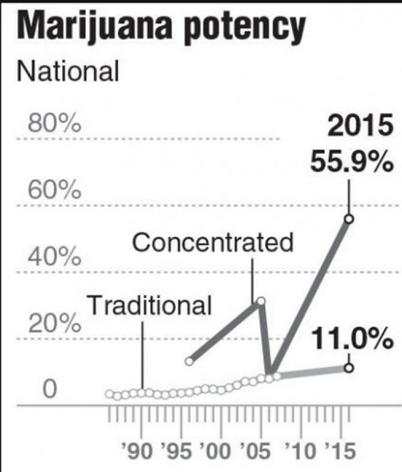
### Marijuana Legalization, Vermont's DUI Enforcement Initiative

By Keith W. Flynn, GHSP Chief

As the date for marijuana (MJ) legalization draws near Vermont's impaired driving enforcement initiatives will face many new challenges. Clearly, the legal landscape will change as result of the legalization of MJ but, with many still unanswered questions the scope and nature of that change is uncertain. However, the Governor's Highway Safety Program is poised to continue its focus on a programmatic response to impaired driving, particularly detection, processing, and the prosecution of suspected offenders on our roadways.

Although we have no clear roadmap as to where this path may take us, it is reasonable to look to the Colorado experience to discern what the future may bring. The Rocky Mountain HIDTA report entitled: *The Legalization of Marijuana in Colorado: The Impact*, Volume 5 October 2017 reported the following:

- Marijuana-related traffic deaths when a driver tested positive for marijuana more than doubled from **55** deaths in 2013 to **125** deaths in 2016.
- Marijuana-related traffic deaths **increased 66 percent** in the four-year average (2013-2016) since Colorado legalized recreational marijuana compared to the four-year average (2009-2012) prior to legalization.
- During the same time period, all traffic deaths **increased 16 percent**. In 2009, Colorado marijuana-related traffic deaths involving drivers testing positive for marijuana represented **9 percent** of all traffic deaths. By 2016, that number has more than doubled to **21 percent**.



(Source: DEA, The Price and Purity of Illicit Drugs, University of Mississippi Graphic)

Despite the unknown, we do know what we already know, namely, that MJ significantly impairs judgment, motor coordination, and reaction time; and, studies have found a direct relationship between blood THC concentration and impaired driving ability. We must be mindful of the fact that today's MJ is not that of yesteryear. A 2015 report by the American Chemical Society (ACS) estimated that the average potency of MJ has increased by a factor of at least three. In further support of this premise an article from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) will soon be launching a new initiative to counter the drugged driving problem that exists on our nation's roadways. This initiative has been designated as a top priority of NHTSA. The initiative will be unveiled on March 15, 2018 when NHTSA will host a summit to lead a national dialogue on drug impaired driving and to map out a course of action to address this growing problem. We will keep our readers updated on the progress of this initiative and what this summit can bring to our enforcement processes in the State of Vermont.

1. Lenné MG, Dietze PM, Triggs TJ, Walmsley S, Murphy B, Redman JR. The effects of cannabis and alcohol on simulated arterial driving: Influences of driving experience and task demand. *Accid Anal Prev.* 2010;42(3):859-866. doi:10.1016/j.aap.2009.04.021.
2. Hartman RL, Huestis MA. Cannabis effects on driving skills. *Clin Chem.* 2013;59(3):478-492. doi:10.1373/clinchem.2012.194381.

### From the 2018 NHTSA Campaign Calendar

**Saint Patrick's Day**  
March 17th, 2018

**IMPAIRED DRIVING**

Primary Message:  
**Buzzed Driving is Drunk Driving**



[Click on the Logo for campaign materials](#)

#### **SaferRide. NHTSA's Mobile App**

During Saint Patrick's Day celebrations, and throughout the year, NHTSA's SaferRide app will help keep drunk drivers off our roads by allowing users to call a taxi or a friend and by identifying their location so they can be picked up.

Download for *Android* devices from the [Google Play](#) store, and *Apple* devices from the [iTunes](#) store.

#### **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.*

#### **This Month's Issue**

- Message from the GHSP Chief
- Campaign Calendar
- GHSP Promotions
- Welcome Rachel Noyes
- FFY19 Requests for Proposals
- Bennington officers will serve food for good cause.
- Just Drive Commercial & Logo
- Other News
- VHSA News

## GHSP Announces Promotions



The GHSP office is pleased to announce that **Allison Laflamme** has been promoted to **Deputy Chief**, reporting directly to Chief Flynn. Allison has served with the GHSP for nearly seven years, at the Department of Public Safety and now at the Agency of Transportation. Allison previously held the position of Financial Manager II. Allison works closely with Chief Keith Flynn, Law Enforcement Liaisons and our Impaired Driving Coordinator. Allison also oversees the three program coordinators and provides guidance to Danielle Record on grant/fiscal oversight. You can reach Allison at 802-498-8079 or [Allison.Laflamme@Vermont.Gov](mailto:Allison.Laflamme@Vermont.Gov)

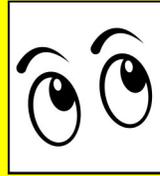


The GHSP office is pleased to announce that **Danielle Record** has been promoted to **Administrative Services Manager I**, reporting directly to Chief Flynn. Danielle will now be responsible for managing and overseeing the Grant Electronic Application and Reporting System (GEARs). Danielle previously held the position of Grants Management Specialist. She is a subject matter expert in matters related to GEARs, grant/fiscal management, the Highway Safety Plan, and the Annual Report. You can reach Danielle at 802-595-4402 or [Danielle.Record@Vermont.Gov](mailto:Danielle.Record@Vermont.Gov)

## GHSP Welcomes New Program Coordinator



In February **Rachel Noyes** joined the GHSP team as a **Program Coordinator**. Rachel will be an **Impaired Driving Program Coordinator** and will be cross trained on other grant programs. Rachel previously held a position with the Department of Motor Vehicles as an IT Program Coordinator. You can reach Rachel at 802-595-4222 or [Rachel.Noyes@Vermont.Gov](mailto:Rachel.Noyes@Vermont.Gov)



### FFY2019 Request for Proposals

The GHSP will release the RFP in **April 2018** for

FFY2019 awards. Watch your e-mail and check our website for this important information. Applications will be submitted in the Grant Electronic and Application System (GEARs) at [egrants.vermont.gov](http://egrants.vermont.gov) by the deadline posted in the RFP.

## Bennington officers will serve food for good cause

The Bennington Banner

BENNINGTON — "You guys ready to order lunch?" Paul Doucette said, smiling as he approached the table.

"Breakfast," his customer, Mark Santelli, replied. "Okay, breakfast," Doucette said. "Let me go get my little book." "So, what can I get you today?"

"Scrambled eggs and sausage, and an all-meat omelette," Santelli replied. "You want any cheese on that?" Doucette asked. "Sure," Santelli said. "Toast?" "Sourdough."

And with that, Bennington's police chief had taken his first order at the Sunny Side Diner. "I was nervous. I didn't know I'd be so nervous," Doucette said. He was eager to get it right, because "the larger tip we get, the more bicycle helmets we can buy."

Half of the profits made Saturday will go to the police association's cause. **They hope to use the proceeds to buy over 300 bike helmets for a bicycle rodeo they're planning this spring.**

Click [here](#) to read the remainder of this story, and click [here](#) for the follow up story "**Police, diner serve up \$3K for charity.**"



Lt. David Dutcher, bussing a table during a practice session of Protect and Serve. and Serve is held to raise money for three hundred bicycle helmets that will go to children attending the bicycle rodeo in the spring.

## New England States Collaborate to Produce 'Just Drive' Distracted Driving Commercial, Unveil Logo

By: Allison Laflamme, GHSP Deputy Chief



On the NHTSA Calendar April is Distracted Driving Month and Region I is pleased to announce that they have collaborated in the production of a commercial and branded a new logo for the effort. The 'Just Drive' project is believed to be the first of its kind for the region. Highway safety directors

from each state brainstormed how we could create a collaborative, positive, behavior-change message. With the marketing firm Think Argus the 'Just Drive' campaign was born.

In just a few short hours you can travel between all the New England states, and while each state has its own set of laws and penalties associated with hand-held electronic devices, our highway safety partners have come together to ask that you 'Just Drive.' The script, which had law enforcement influence and is delivered by all six law enforcement officers, and will be aired on television, radio and on social media in every New England state.

***"...Every year, there are hundreds of distracted driving crashes across New England. Many die. Many more suffer devastating injuries. For us, they're not just numbers. They're people.***

***The images never go away.***

***That's why, today, we're here to send a message.***

***When you get behind the wheel, Just Drive.***

***For you, and the people you love."***

The VT GHSP office would like to thank Corporal Justin Busby from the Vermont State Police for his outstanding work toward education and combating Distracted Driving.

The GHSP would also like to thank each and every law enforcement officer and highway safety partner who educates drivers to not drive distracted.

Watch for this commercial to begin airing this April.



Law Enforcement Representatives from Vermont, Maine, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut and New Hampshire at the 'Just Drive' March 2018 production.

Photo Credit: ThinkArgus

## National Safety Council Introduces

Right Now, 53 Million Vehicles on the Road Have Open Recalls. Find out if your vehicle has an open recall. It's free to check and free to repair at a dealer.

<http://www.checktoprotect.org>



### Other News Headlines

**USA Today** - [Drowsy driving plays larger role in accidents than Federal Statistics Suggest.](#)

**GHSA** - [No National Progress in Reducing Pedestrian Fatalities](#)

**Vt-Digger** - [House endorses bill allowing saliva test for](#)

### Deaths on Vermont Roadways

Year	Deaths
2013	77
2014	71
2015	44
2016	57
2017	68

**07 Deaths as of March 5th, 2018**

**Motor Vehicle Crash Facts:**

[January 30, 2018 – February 5, 2018](#)

[February 6, 2018 – February 11, 2018](#)

[February 12, 2018 – February 19, 2018](#)

[February 20, 2018 – February 26, 2018](#)

# VHSA Updates



March 2018

[vermonthighwaysafety.org](http://vermonthighwaysafety.org)

## SAVE THE DATE

#802phonesdown!headsup!

### High School Video Public Service Announcement Contest



1st Prize: **\$750**  
2nd Prize: **\$500**  
3rd Prize: **\$250**

Registration Opens March 9th | First 10 entries receive a **\$10 gift card**. For more information please visit:

[Vermont Highway Safety Alliance Website](http://VermontHighwaySafetyAllianceWebsite)

Sponsored by: *Consultant on Police Services*

**WORLD**



Central Vermont Rotary Club



## MARCH ENFORCEMENT CAMPAIGNS

It's Not Luck... it's Smart



March 17 NHTSA St. Patrick's Day

Buzzed Driving is Drunk Driving

March 10 DUI Task Force, Burlington

March 17 DUI Task Force, Colchester

[Click for media marketing material from NHTSA](#)

## NATIONAL WORK ZONE MEMORIAL

**"Respect and Remembrance: Reflections of Life on the Road"**

April 9th - 13th

is NATIONAL WORK ZONE AWARENESS WEEK and is observed across the country.



The Work Zone Memorial Wall will be displayed in Montpelier in April in conjunction with the New England American Traffic Safety Services Association Conference. The Memorial honors those who died in work zones, including work zone workers, motorists, pedestrians, law enforcement officers, public safety officials (i.e., firefighters and paramedics), and children. This is an important week to show support of the roadway safety industry, especially to the families of victims who have lost their lives in work zones. For more information:

<http://www.atssa.com/Events>

<http://www.atssa.com/TheFoundation/TheFoundationPrograms/TheNationalWorkZoneMemorialRespectandRem.aspx>

## Governor's Highway Safety Program

Governor's Highway Safety Program  
Agency of Transportation  
One National Life Drive

Visit our Website...

[www.ghsp.vermont.gov](http://www.ghsp.vermont.gov)

If you have comments or suggestions for our newsletter, please send them to [james.baraw@vermont.gov](mailto:james.baraw@vermont.gov).

[Please add my name to the GHSP monthly newsletter mailing list.](#)

## April is National Distracted Driving Awareness Month

**U Drive - U Text - U Pay** is a campaign centered on aiding law enforcement officers in their efforts to keep distracted drivers off the road. Distracted driving is a first offense in many states and continues to gain recognition across the nation as a deadly problem.

This campaign is targeted to men and women 18 to 34 years old with a skew toward women.

Use these **law enforcement campaign materials** to raise awareness in your community about the consequences of texting while driving. These enforcement materials do not focus on social norming - for those materials, please refer to:

[One Text Or Call Could Wreck It All](#) campaign (social norming)

For more information, facts, and toolkits, please visit [www.Distracted.gov](http://www.Distracted.gov)



49% of drivers do what led to this crash.

Find out if you're one of them.

Watch Here >

For additional *Seatbelt, Distracted, Impaired and Drowsy Driving* handouts, posters, cards, or other informational materials, please contact us at the [Governor's Highway Safety Office](#) or the [Vermont Highway Safety Alliance](#)