

VERMONT GOVERNOR'S HIGHWAY SAFETY PROGRAM

Monthly Newsletter

May / June / July 2018

Vermont DEC Program Updates

By Lt. John Flannigan, DECP State Coordinator

With the increase in drug impaired driving cases across Vermont, the Vermont Drug Evaluation and Classification Program (DECP) continues to grow in experience and number of Drug Recognition Experts (DRE).

An August 2018 class is planned, in hopes of adding another 9 certified DREs to the current fifty available statewide to keep up with demands to all of our partner law enforcement agencies. In 2017, DREs conducted 263 enforcement evaluations, a 5% increase from 2016.

On July 1, 2018 Vermont legalized marijuana for those over 21 years old. However, there are no changes to the impaired driving statutes, as the law for operating under the influence of drug(s) remains, "impairment to the slightest degree."



Franklin Co. Deputy States Attorney Ashley Harriman conducts "redirect" questioning with Officer Justin Pickel, Barre City PD.

Recently, the VT DECP hosted courtroom testimony training for DREs at Saint Michael's College. We were fortunate to have Pennsylvania Defense Attorney Tim Barrouk from the McShane Firm join us to present and conduct exercises in cross-examination. We also had Franklin County Deputy States Attorney Ashley Harriman and retired Judge Ben Joseph presiding over our mock court. The courtroom training was well received and we will be looking to do it again in the future.



Pennsylvania Defense Attorney, Tim Barrouk cross examines VSP Tpr. Bradley Miller during DRE training.

Upcoming 2018 NHTSA Campaigns

Heatstroke Prevention 2018

Awareness Day, July 31st

Primary Message
"Act Fast, Save a Life"

Twitter Chat:
#Heatstrokekills



Labor Day 2018 DUI Campaign

August 15th to
September 3rd

IMPAIRED DRIVING

Primary Message:
"Drive Sober or Get
Pulled Over"



Our Mission Statement

Achieve progress "Toward Zero Deaths" by reducing the number of crashes, injuries and fatalities on Vermont's roads and to provide highway safety data and fact-based analyses that will assist communities and safety advocates in implementing effective programs that will change high-risk driving behavior and increase safety on our streets and highways.

The Governor's Highway Safety Program is now on **facebook**

By Rachel Noyes, GHSP Program Coordinator



The GHSP is happy to announce that we now have an official Facebook page! The page (found via web here: https://www.facebook.com/VT-Governors-Highway-Safety-Program-169353413762292/?modal=admin_todo_tour) is titled, "VT Governor's Highway Safety Program" and is managed by Program Coordinators. Created at the request of some of our partners, the page is quickly becoming a great way to communicate with VT road users.

The page will be utilized for sharing information critical to highway safety, including both local and national news and statistics, as well as community events, press releases, recall information, VT related traffic incidents, and more. We will keep our followers up to date on the latest GHSP projects and media releases as well.

Please consider sharing this page with your friends and family so we can reach a wider audience and continue to achieve progress "Toward Zero Deaths" on Vermont roadways. If you have content to share, please send it to rachel.noyes@vermont.gov or directly to the page through the messenger capabilities on Facebook.

This Month's Issue

- Vermont DEC Program Updates
- GHSP in now on Facebook
- Campaign Calendar
- Crash Reconstruction Drones
- Community Motorists and Bicyclists Safety
- Timeliness Awards
- Texting Statistics and Facts
- Click It or Ticket 2018 - Vermont
- Other News Headlines
- Statewide Fatality / Crash Data
- VHSA News

Community Motorists and Bicyclists Safety

By Jon Kaplan, P.E. - VTTrans Bicycle and Pedestrian Program Manager

As we move into the summer months, we find ourselves confronted with Motorists and Bicyclists on Vermont's roadways. In Vermont we "**Share the Roads**," so both Motorists and Bicyclists can ride together safely and everyone can be on our roadways together this summer. The warmer weather typically results in more bicyclists on the road. Here are some basic safety tips for you to share with your local community:

Bicyclists

- Ride predictably and legally. Bicyclists have the same rights AND responsibilities on the road. This means riding with traffic, stopping at Stop signs or signals, signaling for turns and being aware of other traffic. When in traffic and riding with others, please ride single file.
- Be visible, especially at dawn/dusk or at night. Vermont law requires the use of a front headlight at night and either 20 square inches of reflective material or a red light in the rear. Light, bright or reflective clothing helps with visibility.
- Make sure your bicycle is in good working order, especially the tires and brakes, before going out on the road.
- Always wear a properly fitted helmet. While a helmet won't prevent you from getting into a crash, if something does happen, it will help prevent a more serious brain injury.

Motorists

- To keep yourself and all others on the road safe, don't drive when impaired and don't use your cell phone. Focus on your most important task – driving.
- Give bicyclists extra space when passing them. Vermont law recommends at least 4 feet. Pass safely. Don't go out into the opposing lane unless you are sure there is no oncoming traffic.
- Look twice before making a turn, especially in downtowns and village centers where it is more likely to see bicyclists.
- Understand that bicyclists are people just like you. They are enjoying being on the road, or going to appointments, work or school. Bicyclists are fathers, mothers, sons, daughters and friends.

If both groups of road users practice these few simple tips, then both should be able to safely use Vermont's roads this summer.

Web Crash Timeliness Awards

By Mandy White

At the May 31st Vermont Sheriffs' & Chiefs' of Police Conference at Lake Morey Resort in Fairlee, VT, 12 police departments were recognized by the VHSA & VTTrans as leaders in providing complete & timely crash reports into the Web Crash program. The criteria for this award was based on the average number of days it took for an agency to report crash data, from the date of crash, to the date of first submittal. The Office of Highway Safety wants to stress the importance of timely reporting of crashes for readily available data. Through this effort the following police departments were recognized with an overall, yearly average of less than 20 days: Bennington PD, Bradford PD, Brattleboro PD, Castleton PD, Dover PD, Ludlow PD, Morristown PD, Richmond PD, South Burlington PD, Williston PD, Lamoille CSD, and Windsor CSD.

Texting Statistics and Facts

Texting in the United States

- 81% of Americans text regularly
- Over 6 billion texts are sent every day
- Over 180 billion texts are sent every month
- 2.27 trillion texts are sent every year
- 97% of American adults text weekly
- America is responsible for approximately 45% of the world's text volume
- Americans text twice as much as they call, on average
- In 2010, almost 200,00 texts were sent every second of the year

Texting by Preference

- 33% of American adults prefer texts to all other forms of communication
- Text is the most used form of communication for American adults under 50
- 91% of people who text prefer it over voicemail
- Texting is the most common cell phone activity
- A third of Americans prefer text to phone calls

[\(Click Here\)](#) for a [full list](#) of *Texting Statistics and Sources*

Vermont's Crash Reconstruction Unit Use of Drone Technology

By Lt. Barbara Kessler and Cpl Mike Sorensen, *VSP Crash Reconstruction Team*

Vermont's execution of Evidence Based Enforcement outlines essential components that include the collection and analysis of specific data to identify who is crashing, where they are crashing, when they are crashing, and how they are crashing. To help collect the information at the crash scene, the CRT currently utilizes four (4) Sokkia 530R Total Stations and one (1) Topcon 3107W Total Station deployed throughout the state. These measurement devices, although still operational, are lacking in certain technologies. The emerging technology in this field involves the use of small Unmanned Aerial Systems (sUAS), commonly referred to as "drones."

The Lake County (IL) Major Crash Assistance Team established a sUAS program to forensically map serious crash scenes in 2015. During sUAS program integration, they continued to map scenes using... (Click [Here](#) to read the full article by Lt Kessler)

Governor's Highway Safety Program

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[Visit our Website...](#)

www.ghsp.vermont.gov

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

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

“Click It or Ticket It” from Around Vermont

On Friday, May 25th (Memorial Day Weekend), there was a CIOT detail held in Hartford. Twenty-one officers from both VSP and DMV Enforcement participated in this detail. Media outlets reporting on the event included: NECN, WCAX, Fox 44, and The Valley News.



The members of the media conducted interviews with agency officers and went on a ride-along with officers during the detail. The focus for the day was on speed and aggressive driving, distracted driving, and the move-over law.

On June 2nd, the Wilmington Police Dept hosted a CIOT highway safety initiative in Deerfield Valley. The Windham and Bennington County CIOT task forces joined together in an effort to conduct various enforcement details. This event was sponsored by the GHSP. Eight officers representing Wilmington Police, Dover Police, Windham County Sheriff's Office, Bennington County Sheriff's Office, and the Bennington Police Dept focused on aggressive driving, distracted driving, and speed.



The team conducted an electronic surveillance enforcement detail and within 2 hours ticketed 14 motorists who had been observed operating a vehicle while being distracted by a handheld electronic device. Seven additional motorists were ticketed for various other violations and 21 warnings were issued during this detail. Throughout the day, 101 motorists were stopped for assorted violations including 46 tickets being issued for speed related violations. This initiative was designed to improve highway safety, with the

goal of reducing motor vehicle crashes.

WVNY News, Press Release: May 21st, 2018



Click on image for the video story

CROWN POINT, NY. - Whether you are driving in Vermont or New York, police are urging motorists to buckle up. Law enforcement agencies from the two states met on the Champlain Bridge that connects Addison, Vermont to Crown Point, New York.

"This year from May 21 to June 3, state, local and county law enforcement across the country will be cracking down on people that choose not to wear their seat belt," said Paul White. White is the law enforcement liaison

for the Vermont Governor's Highway Safety Program.

Vermont and New York have been participating in the 'Click It or Ticket' campaign for 17 years. The campaign is aimed to increase the number of motorist wearing seat belts.

"Buckle Up New York campaign is one of the most successful traffic safety campaigns in history. Hundreds of lives have been saved, and thousands of injuries prevented," said Major John Tibbitts of the New York State Police, Troop B. In New York, 90% of drivers wear a seat belt. While in Vermont, that percentage is lower at 85%.

"Among young adults, ages 18 to 34 killed in crashes in 2016, more than half (57%) were completely unrestrained. One of the highest percentages for all age groups," said Christopher Herrick. Herrick is the Deputy Commissioner for the Department of Public Safety.

"You will see a big push of extra enforcement, cracking down on speeding, aggressive driving, and distracted driving," said Paul White... [Click here to read entire story](#)

Other News Headlines

ABC News - [NTSB Recommends Seat Belts on All New School Buses](#)

GHSA - [Uber Will Remind Riders to Buckle Up](#)

GHSA - [Marijuana, Opioids Most Common Drugs Found in Fatally Injured Drivers](#)

News Week - [A Majority of Drivers Do Not Believe Texting While Driving is Dangerous](#)

The Hill - [Lawmakers Worry About Rise in Drugged Driving](#)



Deaths on Vermont Roadways

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

36 Deaths on Vermont Roadways as of July 25th, 2018

Motor Vehicle Crash Facts:

- [July 10, 2018 – July 16, 2018](#)
- [July 3, 2018 – July 9, 2018](#)
- [June 26, 2018 – July 2, 2018](#)
- [June 11, 2018 – June 17, 2018](#)