

VERMONT GOVERNOR'S HIGHWAY SAFETY PROGRAM

Monthly Newsletter

November / December 2016

Seat belt use in U.S. reaches historic 90 percent

Lives saved estimated at nearly 345,000 since 1975

NHTSA - WASHINGTON – Seat belt use in the United States has reached its highest level since the Federal government began regular national surveys in 1994, according to a study released by the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

"The best way folks can protect themselves in their cars is by wearing a seat belt," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx. "Whether you're a driver or passenger, in the front seat or back, the simple act of wearing a seat belt significantly reduces the risk of fatality and major injury in a crash."

The new data – drawn from a large-scale observational study conducted by NHTSA in June 2016, shows daytime belt use (drivers and right-front passengers of passenger vehicles from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.) reached 90.1 percent, a statistically significant increase from 88.5 percent in 2015. The study, known as the National Occupant Protection Use Survey (NOPUS), [Read Here](#)

VSP go undercover to bust distracted drivers

Nov 10th, WCAX News

CHARLOTTE, Vt.—We all know the dangers of texting and driving, but hundreds of drivers do it anyway. Investigative Reporter Jennifer Costa found out Vermont State Police are now going undercover to bust drivers breaking the hands-free law.

Transportation Area Maintenance Supervisor Chris Bearor catches drivers doing a lot of crazy things.

"They might be reading a book. I've seen makeup being put on, brushing their hair, shaving. I've seen it all," said Bearor. But the single biggest distraction is cellphones.

Bearor works for the Vermont Agency of Transportation. Typically there are just a couple of cones between him and two tons of steel. "It can be very scary at times," said Bearor... [Click Here](#) to read the rest of this WCAX Press Release.



Local firms support 'Click-it or Ticket' safety effort

Addison County Independent

NEW HAVEN — This past Wednesday, Nov. 23, local businesses joined law enforcement officers and officials from the Governor's Highway Safety Council, AAA of New England and the Vermont Truck and Bus Association to promote the importance of seat belt use in a press conference in New Haven..

Phoenix Feeds & Nutrition of New Haven and Mike's Fuels of Bridport were the featured local businesses at the event. Officials said these companies promote occupant protection, not only within their operations, but in all areas where they do business. Both companies have agreed to place "Click-it or Ticket" decals on their vehicles in a further attempt to saturate the motoring public with the message that using seat belts is not only a good idea, but it is required by law. (Continued Page 2)

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

IMPAIRED DRIVING

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

Twitter Chat: Buzzed Driving

December 14th – January 1st 2017 is ...
Holiday Season

IMPAIRED DRIVING

Primary Message:
**Drive Sober or
Get Pulled Over**



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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Project RoadSafe Program Recognized by the Vermont Agency of Education

By Norman James



The Vermont Agency of Education has officially recognized certificates issued by Project RoadSafe, a driver safety program sponsored by the Associated General Contractors of Vermont, as Industry Recognized Credentials (IRC). The recognition gives new status to the Alive @ 25 driver safety awareness program produced by the National Safety Council and presented to students at Technical Career Centers in Vermont by certified instructors from AGC/VT.

AGC/VT has been instructing the Alive @ 25 course in several Technical Career Centers in Vermont over the past four years. The program targets Juniors and Seniors in Technical Career Centers who already have their license or the driver's permit because many students have chosen careers that will require them to drive for work. The AOE decision means that students who successfully complete the course will have their certificate of completion acknowledged by the Agency as an Industry Recognized Credential, which is verification of the student's qualification or competence.

The objective of the Alive @ 25 program is to help young drivers understand behaviors and responsibilities associated with driving vehicles for work. The four-hour program is designed and structured to help students make safe, responsible, and respectful choices when operating a motor vehicle. *Today's cutting-edge, rigorous and relevant career and technical education (CTE) prepares youth (and adults) for a wide range of high-wage, high-skill, high-demand careers often requiring employees to drive for work.*

All Technical Career Center students in Vermont who are enrolled in the following programs are eligible for the IRC recognition: Automotive Technology; Diesel/Truck Mechanic; Carpentry; Diversified Agriculture; Forestry & Natural Resources; and Law Enforcement.

A newly restructured Alive @ 25 course will be available after January 1. Contact for the Alive @25 course is Norman James at AGC of VT: njames@agcvt.org. or 802-223-2374.

(Continued from page 1 - Local firms support 'Click-it or Ticket' safety effort)

The press conference took place in the parking lot at Phoenix Feeds, and included police officers from the Vergennes Police Department and the Vermont State Police, among others.



SGT. BRENT NEWTON of the Vergennes Police Department speaks at a New Haven press conference last Wednesday promoting the use of seatbelts. Newton and other members of law enforcement, VTrans and AAA were on hand to discuss the Click-it or Ticket program and applaud the support of Phoenix Feeds and Nutrition and Mike's Fuels for promoting the program by putting stickers on their trucks. Independent photo/Trent Campbell

AAA, also known as the American Automobile Association, advised that over Thanksgiving a million more Americans were expected to travel than last year because of a boost in consumer confidence. Nearly 9 in 10 people travel by automobile. With a greater number of vehicles on the road, comes a potential for more crashes resulting in injury or death..

Many of these can be avoided by simply wearing a seatbelt.

Vermont Law Enforcement will be actively enforcing traffic laws this holiday season to make sure all travelers are wearing their seatbelts.

Vermont has already seen the loss of 57 lives on our roads in 2016. Please, Click-it or Ticket.

VSP Driver's Education

Vermont State Police Trooper Zack Gauthier of the Westminster Barracks was a guest instructor at Springfield High School. During a two day period, he spoke with students in six Drivers Education classes about highway safety topics including Impaired Driving. He addressed approximately 50 to 60 students over the two days.



The Governor's Highway Safety Program would like to wish all our highway safety partners a safe and happy holiday season. We look forward to working with you all in 2017.

Deaths on Vermont Roadways

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

65 Deaths as of December 27th, 2016

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.