

reporter

TENNESSEE TRAFFIC SAFETY

January - March 2005

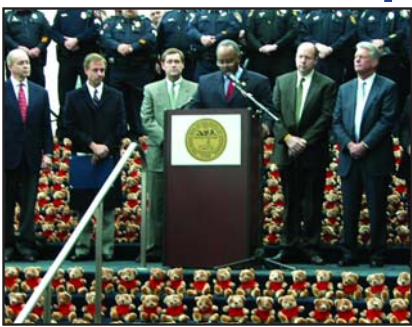
Tennessee Remembers Victims of Impaired Driving

The Tennessee Department of Transportation Governor's Highway Safety Office (GHSO) along with local and state law enforcement and safety advocates held news conferences across the state in December to memorialize victims of impaired driving in recognition of National Drunk and Drugged Driving (3D) Prevention Month.

"Impaired driving is one of America's deadliest crimes. Last year, 447 people died on Tennessee highways as a result of impaired driving," said Governor Phil Bredesen. "That is why the GHSO is joining forces with national, state and local law enforcement along with safety advocates to remind everyone to make wise decisions this holiday season."

Nationally, more than 17,000 people died in alcohol-related crashes. Every 30 minutes, nearly 50 times a day, someone in America dies in an alcohol-related crash and hundreds of thousands more are injured each year. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, about three in every ten Americans will be involved in an alcohol-related crash at some point in their lives.

During **3D Prevention Month**, increased sobriety roadblocks, safety checkpoints, heightened patrols and other enforcement techniques were deployed by local police, sheriff



GHSO Director Chuck Taylor speaks about the dangers of drunken driving during the Knoxville location of the news conferences across the state of Tennessee.

departments and the Tennessee Highway Patrol in full support of the state's **Booze It and Lose It** campaign, which is designed to reduce the number of crashes, injuries and fatalities on our highways.

"During the holiday travel season in Tennessee our interstate traffic rises an estimated 10 percent," said TDOT Commissioner Gerald Nicely. "When alcohol is added to the mix, the holiday travel season can become deadly. Nearly 40 percent of all traffic deaths in Tennessee are alcohol-related."

"Too often this season of thanksgiving, joy and fellowship becomes a time of pain, grief and loss as drunk or drug-impaired drivers get behind the wheel," said GHSO Director Chuck Taylor. "The holiday season is supposed to be a time for celebrations,

but it is unfortunately also a time when we see a tragic jump in the number of alcohol-related fatalities. Our message is clear – don't drink and drive, it's a deadly combination."

The news conferences included a dramatic display of 447 teddy bears representing the lives lost in alcohol-related traffic accidents in the state during 2003. Chattanooga-based UnumProvident Corporation donated the bears for events in Knoxville, Chattanooga and Nashville. State Farm agents Kathy Thurmond-Edwards and Robert Simpson made the donation for Memphis. The bears were donated to the Salvation Army's Angel Tree program following the news conferences. ■

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Announcing the Tennessee Law Enforcement Challenge

What is the Law Enforcement Challenge Program?

The Law Enforcement Challenge is a competition between similar sizes and types of law enforcement agencies. It recognizes and rewards the best overall traffic safety programs in the United States. The areas of concentration include efforts to enforce laws and educate the public about occupant protection, impaired driving, and speeding. Departments submit an application (usually in a three ring or presentation binder) which documents their agency’s efforts and effectiveness in these areas. The winning safety programs are those that combine officer training, public information and enforcement to reduce crashes and injuries within its jurisdiction.

Why does the Governor’s Highway Safety Office do this?

Tennessee’s Law Enforcement Challenge program mirrors the National International Association of Chiefs’ of Police (IACP) Law Enforcement Challenge which is funded by National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA). The Governor’s Highway Safety Office (GHSO) & NHTSA believe an increase in traffic enforcement in a community results in a decrease in motor vehicle crashes, injuries, and fatalities and they have the studies to prove it! In fact, no single other program or strategy works as well as law enforcement in making the roads safer. This program complements all the other training and public information programs that NHTSA does to promote traffic

safety. The GHSO believes one of the best ways to promote, build, and increase participation in the national program is to establish a state Challenge program. This way Tennessee can conduct its own program and then forward the applications to us to include in the IACP & National Sheriffs’ Association (NSA) national competitions. There are currently ten states that have compatible state programs.



What’s in it for a department?

This competition is a friendly way for departments to increase their attention to traffic safety. It provides opportunities for public recognition of exemplary programs (e.g., Nifty Fifty), incentive for continuing traffic safety activities, and documentation of agency effectiveness that can be used in future grant proposals. Every agency does some traffic safety programs, so participation does not require extra commitment on anyone’s part. Merely documenting current activity has produced many winners. This documentation can help provide accountability and prove the value of a strong traffic program. Being the winner brings a great deal of positive attention to a

department, benefits at budget time and enhances an agency’s reputation as a department which is “tough on crime” yet prioritizes traffic safety. Forwarding one complete application to the GHSO is all it takes for a department to be entered in the Tennessee, IACP, & NSA Challenge Programs.

How are applications judged?

All Tennessee applications will be forwarded to the IACP for Judging. A panel of three judges will review each application and assign points based on the criteria. After the judging, the three scores are averaged and a final score is assigned. After all of the applications are scored, the agencies are ranked in their categories. A minimum of 50 points MUST be earned to receive an award. There may be categories where no awards will be presented due to either a lack of entries or not enough agencies achieving a minimum score. All judges are independent members of the law enforcement community, public safety and corporate partners who have demonstrated advance knowledge of highway safety initiatives. All applications will be judged for the state program, as well as the national IACP program. Applications that are received from Sheriff’s Departments will be judged by the NSA and entered in their Challenge as well.

For more information, contact Mark Hutchinson, GHSO Law Enforcement Liaison Program Coordinator, at 615-207-0986. ■

Saturation Patrol Saves Diabetic

as told by Corporal Clint Shrum of the Winchester Police Department
Friday Night, 11-26-04

“We were conducting our second checkpoint of the night. I had 8 officers on the checkpoint and 6 officers doing saturation patrol around the checkpoint. Officer Chris Layne was on the SAT Team and called for me to come to his location where he had a vehicle stopped on suspicion of DUI. The location of the stop was less than half a mile from the checkpoint so I went to Officer Layne.”

“When I got there Officer Layne explained to me the driver of the truck was all over the road and that he could hardly talk. However, there was something that caught Officer Layne’s eye that concerned him. On the drivers’ Tennessee license he saw the ‘medical alert’ imprint. Officer Layne set the gentleman in his patrol car for his own safety. The officer told me he could not smell any alcohol. I went and spoke with the driver and found out he was a diabetic. He told me he was insulin dependent and he had taken his medication about two hours prior to the stop.”

“While he was talking to me I noticed he was clammy, sweating and shaky. I told Officer Layne to call for an ambulance because I felt he was going into hypoglycemic shock. The ambulance arrived and conducted a blood/sugar test and determined his level was only 34. The normal reading is 80-110. They transported him to the hospital.”



“All I can say is training pays off and it probably saved this man’s life.” ■

Article provided by:
Dan Blake, GHSO LEL Cumberland District Coordinator.

CPS Week

February 13-19, 2005 will mark the national observance of Child Passenger Safety Week. This special celebration is designed to encourage parents and others to “Buckle Up” children correctly in child safety seats, booster seats and safety belts on every motor vehicle trip. Your participation during this special plays an important role in stimulating the year-round effort to reduce child passenger deaths and injuries. Encourage the members of your community to give the best hug in the world, the life-saving hug of a safety seat or seat belt. ■

Don't Recline Your Seat While Traveling!

Did you know most vehicle occupants are unaware of the fact that they should not recline their seat while traveling? most occupants think that since their seats recline, they should be able to recline them while traveling. The fact is they should only recline them for use at rest stops.

The safest position during travel is the upright position. The upright position of the seat allows the lap and shoulder belts to fit on the correct parts of the body and to manage the crash forces. Various scenarios can occur when the passenger reclines, including sliding under the belt, potentially leading to ejection. So be sure and spread the word — keep those seats upright and only recline them at rest stops. ■



GHSO Training 2005 Calendar: Columbia, Jackson, Nashville

COLUMBIA FEBRUARY 7-11

- Officer Spanish Communication I & II
- GHSO Program Planning and Proposal Writing
- Standardized Child Passenger Safety Training**
- At-Scene Traffic Crash Investigation
- Electronic Traffic Crash Reporting

COLUMBIA FEBRUARY 14-18

- Standardized Field Sobriety Testing
Training/Protecting Lives, Saving Futures
- At-Scene Traffic Crash Investigation
- Introduction to Child Passenger Safety**
- Moving Kids Safely in Child Care**
- Child Passenger Safety Training for School Buses**
- Cops in Court

JACKSON MARCH 7-11

- Standardized Field Sobriety Testing
Training/Protecting Lives, Saving Futures
- GHSO Program Planning and Proposal Writing
- Standardized Child Passenger Safety Training**
- Electronic Traffic Crash Reporting
- Cops in Court

JACKSON MARCH 14-18

- Officer Spanish Communication I & II
- Child Passenger Safety Re-Certification Workshop**
- Introduction to Child Passenger Safety**
- Safe Transportation of Children with Special Needs**

NASHVILLE APRIL 11-15

- Officer Spanish Communication I & II
- Standardized Child Passenger Safety Training**
- Standardized Field Sobriety Testing Instructor
- Advanced Traffic Crash Investigation
- DUI Trial Advocacy
- Safe and Legal Traffic Stops
- Electronic Traffic Crash Reporting
- Cops in Court

NASHVILLE APRIL 18-22

- Officer Spanish Communication III
- Standardized Field Sobriety Testing
Training/Protecting Lives, Saving Futures
- Advanced Traffic Crash Investigation
- Child Passenger Safety Re-Certification Workshop**
- Safe Transportation of Children with Special Needs**
- Introduction to Child Passenger Safety**
- In-Car Videotaping User Training for DUI
Enforcement and Persecution
- Cops in Court

Note: For more dates and times of the 2005 GHSO Training schedule, please visit the Tennessee Traffic Safety Resource Service Website at:

<http://www.tntrafficsafety.org>



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This material was developed through a project funded by the Tennessee Department of Transportation, Governor's Highway Safety Office and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration at a cost of \$.21 each. Publication Number: R01.2517.078.010.05



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U.S. Postage Paid
Non-Profit Organization
Knoxville, Tennessee
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