

# reporter

October 07 - January 08



## GHSO HOLDS SOBER RIDE EVENT



The Governor's Highway Safety Office (GHSO) and the Davidson County Sheriff's Office (DCSO) held a Sober Ride Event in Nashville on December 21, 2007. The event promoted the Sober Ride program to the Metro Nashville area. The Sober Ride Program provides free, safe, and sober rides for partygoers on New Year's Eve and St. Patrick's Day. It has been operating for the last 20 years by the DCSO and is funded by the GHSO. The DCSO and GHSO began the event by emphasizing the dangers of drinking and driving. They warned people if you plan on using alcohol, never drive while impaired—and never let your friends drive when you think they are impaired.

Davidson County Sheriff Hall said, "Too many people still don't understand that alcohol, drugs and driving don't mix. Impaired driving is no accident – nor is it a victimless crime". Sheriff Hall went on to say how he wants Nashville residents to know it's never acceptable to drink, drug and drive. He also wants to remind everyone to not to get behind a wheel if you've been drinking—use the Sober Ride program.

"Designating a sober driver and not letting friends drive while impaired are just two of several steps that you can take to help avoid a tragic crash or an arrest for impaired driving," said GHSO Director, Kendell Poole. He

also recommended doing the following for St. Patrick's Day.

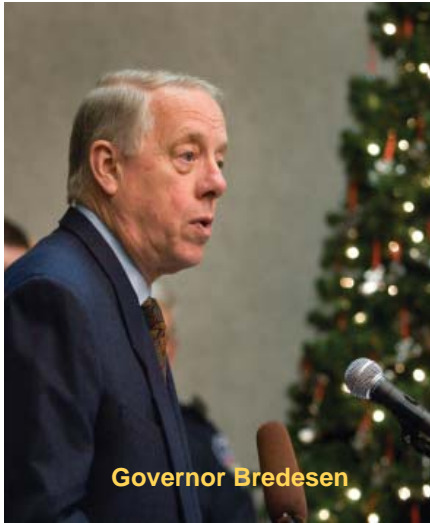
- Plan ahead and designate a sober driver **BEFORE** you go out
- Do the smart thing when you have had too much to drink, call a sober friend, call a cab, or use mass transit
- If you are a resident of Davidson County, use the community Sober Rides program by calling 862-7433 on St. Patrick's Day.

And remember, it may be magically delicious, but just one more could be one too many. 🍀

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# TENNESSEE OFFICIALS REMEMBER VICTIMS OF IMPAIRED DRIVING DURING NATIONAL 3D PREVENTION MONTH



**Governor Bredesen**

Governor Phil Bredesen joined the Tennessee Department of Transportation Governor's Highway Safety Office (TDOT/GHSO) and law enforcement and safety advocates from across the state on December 6, 2007. The officials gathered to remember 439 people who were killed in alcohol or drug-related crashes in 2006. All of these people were victims of drivers with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) greater than .08.

A Christmas tree adorned with 439 angels was displayed at the event to serve as a visual reminder of the severe result of driving impaired.

Since 1981, each U.S. President has demonstrated his commitment to preventing impaired driving by proclaiming December as National Drunk and Drugged Driving (3D) Prevention Month.

Governor Bredesen urged Tennesseans to celebrate responsibly. "Drunk driving is a preventable crime that claims the lives of hundreds of Tennesseans each year, including 439 people who lost their lives last year alone," said Bredesen.

"The consumption of alcohol, drugs and driving just doesn't mix," said Commissioner Gerald Nicely, TDOT. "It's not worth the risk of killing yourself or someone else by driving impaired."



"Make no mistake. Our message is simple. If we catch you driving impaired, we will arrest you. No exceptions. No excuses," said Colonel Mike Walker, Tennessee Department of Safety.



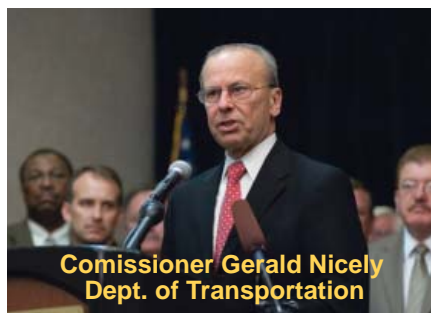
**Colonel Mike Walker  
TN Highway Patrol**



**Kendell Poole  
GHSO Director**

"Saving lives on our roads is a top priority and we need everyone's help to do it," Kendell Poole, Director, GHSO. "This St. Patrick's Day, don't let it end in an arrest—or even worse, death. Make smart decisions. Plan ahead, so you can assure a safe way home.

Whether you've had way too many or just one too many, it's not worth the risk.  
**Booze it and Lose It!**



**Commissioner Gerald Nicely  
Dept. of Transportation**



# Bredesen Marks Child Safety Law's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Governor Bredesen commemorated the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the nation's first child safety law on January 17<sup>th</sup>. Tennessee was the first state to pass legislation in 1978 making it mandatory for each child to be restrained in a safety seat. "Tennessee has always been a visionary



place, and the people of Tennessee have always known that nothing is more important than the safety and well being of our children," said Governor Bredesen. "We are extremely proud that Tennessee was the first state with a child safety seat law and led the way for the nation. Within six years, every other state in the country had followed our example with a similar law to save children's lives."

Dr. Robert Sanders, known as "Dr. Seat-belt", of Murfreesboro and prominent legislators led the effort to protect children riding in automobiles. Due to their efforts, the law became effective on January 1, 1978 making Tennessee the first state to require the use of safety seats for child passengers.

Today, Tennessee is one of only 18 states that currently requires children through age eight to be restrained in a booster seat. According to preliminary figures, 12 children under the age of five were killed in car crashes in Tennessee in 2007. One-third of them were not restrained. Studies show child seats reduce the likelihood of an infant (under one year old) being killed in a vehicle crash by 71 percent and toddlers (one to four years old) by 54 percent.

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Saved By The Belt

GHSO announces its new "Saved By The Belt" program. This program is for Tennessee law enforcement to identify & nominate Tennesseans whose lives have been saved or injuries significantly reduced because they were wearing a



safety belt at the time of a crash. To learn more about this program, visit [www.tntrafficsafety.org](http://www.tntrafficsafety.org) and click on Saved by the Belt icon. \*

### New TTSRS Brochures



**4 Steps For Kids**  
English/Spanish card illustrating proper child restraints for the different stages of development.

**Tres Maneras De Conservar A Un Amigo...** Spanish version of the **Friends Don't Let Friends, Drive Drunk!** brochure.



**Safe Driving Tips** Includes several traffic safety issues such as:

- \* Aging Population
- \* Drowsy Driving
- \* Aggressive Driving
- \* Road Assistance
- \* Antilock Brake Systems

To obtain these brochures and more, visit [www.tntrafficsafety.org](http://www.tntrafficsafety.org) and click on Products and Services. Download the order form and fax your order today. \*

### LAW ENFORCEMENT

GHSO WANTS YOU

to compete in the Law Enforcement Challenge

THIS YEAR!



GHSO wants you to compete in the Law Enforcement Challenge this year. Each year law enforcement agencies are recognized and rewarded for best overall traffic safety programs in Tennessee and throughout the United States. To be included in this year's competition, call Clint Shrum @ 423.421.3696 or visit [www.tntrafficsafety.org](http://www.tntrafficsafety.org) and click on Law Enforcement Challenge to complete the application. Application Deadline is: April 25, 2008. \*

### New Drug Recognition Expert Training School

GHSO is pleased to announce the upcoming Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) School. This is a highly sought after school that trains police officers through a three-phase training process. The training relies heavily on the Standardized Field Sobriety Tests (SFST's).



Becoming a certified DRE is not a simple achievement. This is why it is essential that the participating agency head support their DRE applicant. There will be only 20 officers selected to participate in the upcoming training. The dates of the school are April 7-8 and 17-25, 2008 with training held in Nashville. If you are interested in becoming a DRE, please visit [www.tntrafficsafety.org](http://www.tntrafficsafety.org) for information or contact Richard Holt, GHSO/DRE State Coordinator, at 1.615.207.0009. \*

## Child Passenger Safety Ease of Use Ratings



Parents - Not Sure Which Car Seat to Use? Are you looking for

a new car seat for your infant, toddler or 4-8 year old child but overwhelmed by the choices and worried about how to properly install your car seat? Use the New Five-Star Ease of Use Ratings! NHTSA now provides parents a new five-star ratings system that allows you to evaluate how easy certain car seat features are to use before you buy a seat..

All car seats rated by NHTSA met Federal Standards and strict crash performance

standards. While all rated seats are safe, they do differ in their ease of use. To find more information on car seats and their ease of use, go to [www.tntrafficsafety.org](http://www.tntrafficsafety.org) and click on Child Passenger Safety, then scroll and click on Car Seat Ease of Use (NHTSA). 🌱

### GHSO 2008 Training

#### February

At Scene Traffic Crash Investigation  
Advanced Standardized Field Sobriety Testing  
GHSO Grant Application Writing  
Law Enforcement Instructor Development  
Officer Spanish Communication (Basic)  
Officer Spanish Communication (Enhanced)  
Standardized Child Passenger Safety (CPS)  
Standardized CPS Recert  
Standardized Field Sobriety Testing  
Stops Instructor

#### March

At Scene Traffic Crash Investigation  
GHSO Grant Application Writing  
Officer Spanish Communication (Enhanced)  
Radar Operator

#### March (cont'd)

Radar and LIDAR Instructor  
Standardized Child Passenger Safety (CPS)  
Standardized CPS Recert  
Standardized Field Sobriety Testing  
Standardized Field Sobriety Testing - Instructor Development

#### April

Officer Spanish Communication (Enhanced)  
Standardized Child Passenger Safety (CPS)  
Standardized CPS Recert  
Standardized Field Sobriety Testing  
Standardized Field Sobriety Testing - Instructor Development  
Stops Instructor

TENNESSEE TRAFFIC SAFETY

# reporter

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Governor's Highway Safety Office

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people saving people