



February - May 2006

Don't Let Alcohol Put a Chill on Your Summer

The sunshine, warmth and long days of the coming season provide a wealth of opportunities for recreation and relaxation, but, when mixed with alcohol, these activities can turn dangerous and even deadly.

According to National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA), driving while impaired remains one of the most frequently committed crimes in the United States, killing one person every thirty minutes and affecting one in three Americans.



An individual has choices—a choice to drink, a choice to drink to impairment, and a choice of whether to drive. Drunk driving fatalities, injuries, crashes and arrest can be prevented **IF** people make responsible choices. We encourage all individuals this summer to make right choices and to encourage other people to make right choices. The result—our roadways become safe and the drivers on the roadways are sober, lives are saved and hopes and dreams are fulfilled. Make your summer one you'll live to remember. ■

Announcing the 2006 Tennessee's Lifesavers Conference and the Law Enforcement Challenge

The TN Department of Transportation Governor's Highway Safety Office cordially invites you to attend the 19th annual Tennessee Lifesavers Conference and the Tennessee Law Enforcement Challenge 2006.

This year's Lifesavers Conference will be held at the Sheraton Music City Hotel, 777 McGavock Pike, Nashville, TN, on Thursday, July 27, 2006. The Lifesaver Conference will open with a reception Wednesday, July 26 at 5:30 p.m., CDT.

The Tennessee Law Enforcement Challenge 2006 awards ceremony will follow the Lifesavers Conference on Friday, July 28th.

You may make lodging reservations for these events by calling the Sheraton Music City @ 1-615-885-2200 or @ 1-888-627-7060. GHSO has secured a lodging conference rate for the events of \$75.00. Remember to reference TN Lifesaver Conference when you reserve a room.

To register for the conference, please visit www.tntrafficsafety.org. ■

Special Needs Transportation Hotline & List-Serve Started

The National Center for Safe Transportation of Children with Special Healthcare Needs (part of the Automotive Safety Program of Riley Hospital for Children, Indianapolis, IN) has a nation-wide consultation service: 1-800-755-0912. Their web site (<http://www.preventinjury.org/specNeeds.asp>) lists CPS Technicians who have taken the course in Special Needs Transport. The Center also hosts a special needs list-serve. In 2006, it will publish a series of fact sheets on safety considerations for specific conditions. For more information, visit the website listed above. ■

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"Kendell brings an expertise in problem-solving and law enforcement that will help find new ways to reduce highway fatalities and injuries in Tennessee," Bredesen said.

The Governor's Highway Safety Office works with law enforcement, judicial personnel and community advocates to coordinate activities and initiatives relating to the human behavioral aspects of highway safety. Programs administered by the Governor's Highway Safety Office are 100 percent federally funded.

"I am excited about the opportunity to serve Tennessee in a role that can positively impact the lives of people on our highways today and those of our children in the future," Poole said. "I look forward to working with the office's current staff as well as Commissioner Gerald Nicely and the state's law enforcement agencies toward our unified goal of improving highway safety."

Poole is a graduate of Trevecca Nazarene University in Nashville where he received a bachelor's degree in business administration, communications and human relations.

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Transcor America, LLC in Nashville, where he was tasked with finding solutions to strengthen the company.

Poole is married and has three children. ■

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Among those least likely to buckle up: young males, pickup truck drivers and their passengers, people who live in rural areas, and night-time drivers.

That's why the Governor's Highway Safety Office joined with the Tennessee Highway Patrol and other Tennessee law enforcement agencies, to lead this year's annual safety education and enforcement effort called "Hands Across the Border." "Hands Across the Border" is designed to bring awareness

to the national *Click It or Ticket* campaign. Agencies in Kentucky, Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi join forces with the Volunteer State in a pledge to actively enforce safety belt laws, increase safety patrols and conduct sobriety checkpoints during the heavily traveled summer months.

A high visibility enforcement initiative called "Buckle Up in Your Truck" was added to this year's initiative. The eight Southeastern states participating in the "Buckle Up in Your Truck" blitz contain approximately 20 percent of the nation's population but represent approximately 26 percent of the nation's traffic fatalities. "The goal is simple: to save more lives by convincing pickup truck drivers and their passengers to always buckle up," said Tennessee Department of Transportation Commissioner Gerald Nicely.

"We hope to boost the state's overall 74 percent safety belt usage rate and reduce fatalities," said Kendell Poole, GHSO Director. "Motor vehicle crashes continue to be the leading cause of death for people between the ages of 3 and 33 in the United States. These figures have greater meaning given that nearly all vehicle crashes are preventable."

"Law enforcement officials will show zero tolerance this summer for anyone not buckled up, speeding, or driving impaired," added Tennessee Highway Patrol Colonel Mike Walker. "Safety belts clearly save lives. Unless you want to risk a ticket, or worse—your life, you need to remember to *Click It or Ticket* day and night." ■



IN BRIEF

New Products Fill Key Gaps for Child Restraints

Manufacturers are now creating more options for children of diverse sizes and with specific need in categories of child restraints that have offered limited choices in the past. Not only must rear-facing CRs meet the revised FMVSS 213 with extended weight and height of rear-facing restraints, but also the weight and height ranges of many boosters have been extended to accommodate children from 80 to 100 pounds and up to 4'9". Many new designs have improved side-impact protection offered by deeper side-wings and energy-absorbent foam.

To obtain more information on new models, visit NHTSA online @ www.nhtsa.dot.gov and click on Child Passenger Safety. ■

Protect Your Children This Summer With The Proper Gear

- **Bikes** - helmet
- **Scooters** - helmet, kneepads, elbow pads
- **Skateboards** - helmet, kneepads, elbow pads, wrist guards
- **Inline Skates** - helmet, knee pads, elbow pads, wrist guards

Support bike safety education in your community. Attend a class with your child this summer! ■



Motorcycle Safety

Motorcycles can be so much fun. There's nothing quite like the exhilaration of cruising the open road and the challenge of controlling a spirited motorcycle. But motorcycling can also be dangerous. In fact, motorcyclists are 20 times more likely to be killed in traffic crashes than rides in cars. Safe motorcycling takes balance, coordination, and good judgment. Here are some ways to ensure that you'll be around to enjoy riding your motorcycle for many years to come.

Before you take to the road...

- **Make sure you are properly licensed.** Driving a car and riding a motorcycle require very different skills, knowledge and different license.
- **Practice operating your motorcycle.** Riders who have less than six months experience on their bikes account for more than half of all accidents involving motorcyclists. Be sure to take the time to get accustomed to the feel of a new or unfamiliar motorcycle by riding it in a controlled area.

When you're on the Road...

- **Be alcohol and drug free.** Alcohol and drugs, including

some prescribed medications, negatively affect your judgment, coordination, sense of balance, throttle control and ability to shift gears. So, make sure you're alcohol and drug free when you head out on your motorcycle. Otherwise, you're also heading for trouble.

- **Wear the proper protection.** If you're ever in a serious motorcycle crash, the best hope you have for protecting your brain is a motorcycle helmet.
- **Obey traffic lights, signs, speed limits, and lane markings;** ride with the flow of traffic and leave plenty of room between yourself and other vehicles and remember to ride "defensively".

If you would like to discuss motorcycle laws or if you're interested in registering for a motorcycle rider education course to ensure you have the correct instructions it takes to ride a motorcycle, call the TN Dept of Safety's Motorcycle Rider Education Program @ 1-615-232-2913 to find a training location near you. ■

GHSO Training 2006 Calendar:

JUNE 2006

- Advanced Traffic Crash Investigation
- Computerized Collision Diagramming
- DUI Trial Advocacy
- Electronic Traffic Crash Reporting
- Officer Spanish Communication I & II
- Radar and Laser Operator
- Standardized Child Passenger Safety Recert.
- Standardized Child Passenger Safety Training
- Standardized Field Sobriety Testing Training/Protecting Lives, Saving Futures
- STOPS (Strategies & Tactics of Patrol Stops)

JULY 2006

- At-Scene Traffic Crash Investigation (Rescheduled)
- Electronic Traffic Crash Reporting
- Officer Spanish Communication I & II
- Officer Spanish Communication III
- Standardized Child Passenger Safety Recert.
- Standardized Child Passenger Safety Training
- Standardized Field Sobriety Testing Training/Protecting Lives, Saving Futures
- Traffic Crash Reconstruction

AUGUST 2006

- At-Scene Traffic Crash Investigation
- Electronic Traffic Crash Reporting
- Officer Spanish Communication I & II
- Radar and Laser Operator

AUGUST 2006 (continued)

- Standardized Child Passenger Safety Recert.
- Standardized Child Passenger Safety Training
- Standardized Field Sobriety Testing Training/In-Car Videotaping
- Standardized Field Sobriety Testing Training/Instructor
- STOPS (Strategies & Tactics of Patrol Stops)

SEPTEMBER 2006

- Electronic Traffic Crash Reporting
- Officer Spanish Communication I & II
- Officer Spanish Communication III
- Prosecuting the Drugged Driver
- Radar and Laser Operator
- Standardized Field Sobriety Testing Training/In-Car Videotaping
- Standardized Child Passenger Safety Recert.
- Standardized Child Passenger Safety Training
- STOPS (Strategies & Tactics of Patrol Stops)
- Traffic Crash Reconstruction

Note: For specific dates and times of the 2006 GHSO Training schedule, please visit the Tennessee Traffic Safety Resource Service Website at:

<http://www.tntrafficsafety.org>



TTSRS Director

Karen Simerly

Assistant Editor

Lorna Keathley

For more information on TTSRS or to submit comments or suggestions contact:

TN Traffic Safety Resource Service

309 Conference Center Bldg.

Knoxville, TN 37996-4133

Office: **1.800.99BELTS (TN Only)**

Fax: 865-974-3889

E-Mail: simerly@utk.edu

Web: www.tntrafficsafety.org

Governor's Highway Safety Office

James K. Polk Office Building

505 Deaderick Street, Ste. 1800

Nashville, TN 37243

Office: 615-741-2589

Web: <http://www.tdot.state.tn.us/>

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Tennessee Traffic Safety Resource Service
Center for Transportation Research
The University of Tennessee
309 Conference Center Building
Knoxville, TN 37996-4133
1.800.99BELTS

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Will just one more be one too many?



Don't let July 4th blow-up in your face.

Buzzed driving is drunk driving.



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