

Ohio Traffic Record

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A publication of the
Ohio Department of Public Safety

Bob Taft, Governor
Kenneth L. Morckel, Director

Alcohol Awareness Month Theme is "Give Children a Chance. End Underage Drinking."

April is national Alcohol Awareness Month and the focus is on underage drinking. Alcohol is the drug most frequently used by high school seniors, and its use is increasing. Boys usually try alcohol for the first time at just 11 years old, while the average age for an American girl's first drink is 13. Underage drinking is a factor in nearly half of all teen automobile crashes and contributes to youth suicides, homicides and fatal injuries. Additionally, alcohol abuse is linked to as many as two-thirds of all sexual assaults and date rapes of teens and college students and is a major factor in unprotected sex among youth, increasing their risk of contracting HIV or other transmitted diseases.

Sadly, however, high school students lack essential knowledge about alcohol and its effects. Nationwide, an estimated 5.6 million junior and senior high school students are unsure of the legal age to purchase alcohol; one-third do not understand the intoxicating

effects of alcohol; and more than 2.6 million do not know a person can die from an overdose of alcohol.

While the issue of underage drinking is a complex problem, one that can only be solved through a sustained and cooperative effort between parents, schools, community leaders, and the children themselves, there are three areas which have proven to be effective in the prevention of underage drinking: curtailing the availability of alcohol, consistent enforcement of existing laws and regulations, and changing cultural misconceptions and behaviors through education.

Let's all wake up to this problem and get started on the solution. We can't afford to wait any longer.

Alcohol Awareness Month has been sponsored by the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (NCADD) since 1987.



Third Grade Safety Belt Program

The Ohio Department of Public Safety and the Governor's Highway Safety Office has for the past 15 years produced the "Third Grade Safety Belt" program. It has grown from a very small and limited number of law enforcement agencies

instructing the program to over 256 agencies this past fiscal year. The program is taught by uniformed officers in the elementary schools to emphasize the importance of wearing safety belts each and every time the children ride in a motor vehicle.

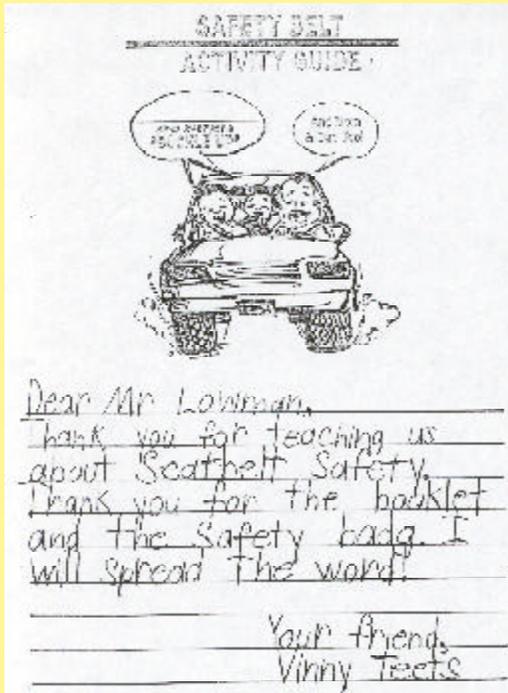
In 2003, one new program was a "Highway Game Show." It is a game in which the instructor will ask questions and the student with the correct answer can set off a buzzer. This is done after the instructor goes over the material, and it is like an evaluation of the presentation.

The program is funded from safety belt fines that have been levied against the motoring public. These funds are then used for print materials, videos and other miscellaneous items that law enforcement agencies use during their third grade presentations.

The third graders write thank you letters to the officer who presented the program. Recently, Detective Mark Loman, Sebring Police Department, received thank you letters from third graders at B.L. Miller School. A sample letter follows. If you need more information regarding the Third Grade Safety Belt Program, please contact:

Each year during July and August, every law enforcement agency receives an invitation to take part in this worthwhile program. This year, several new agencies have taken advantage of the program. It is hoped that more will join the program before May 2, 2004.

Jack Hale
1970 West Broad Street, Rm 426
Columbus, Ohio 43218-2081
Phone: 614/466-3250
E-mail: jhale@dps.state.oh.us



STAGGERED REGISTRATION BEGINS

Staggered registration will begin for commercial vehicles during the March - May 2004 registration period. In the past, all commercial vehicles expired on May 31st of each year, causing congestion at International Registration Plan (IRP) centers or deputy registrar license agencies. The staggered registration system is designed to alleviate the congestion.

The system will be set up based on the last two digits of the owner/lessee's tax identification number or Social Security number. Any carrier who has more than one vehicle can split the vehicles into three additional divisions. A breakdown of the new staggered registration system can be found by logging onto www.ohiobmv.com.

In order for the reassignment of commercial vehicles to take place, the BMV Registrar may require motor vehicles to be registered for a period of at least six months and no more than 17 months.

"By implementing the staggered registration system, we hope to make the registration process more convenient for owners of commercial vehicles," said Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) Registrar Frank Caltrider.

ATTENTION TRUCK DRIVERS
NEW STAGGERED REGISTRATION
ALL COMMERCIAL REGISTRATIONS EXPIRE MAY 31, 2004.

Starting the 2004 renewal season all commercial trucks, trailers, vans, and combinations will be converted to a Staggered Registration.

Any carrier who has more than one vehicle can break out their vehicles in up to 3 additional divisions.

OHIO
REGISTRATION
TAXES
FEES
1998-2004

All vehicles will be reclassified into three registration divisions based on the last 2 numbers of the tax ID# (Business, 1000-9999), TR#, or Social Security number (222).

Division	Registration	Expiration	Notes
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Reflections

from the Director

What's Holding You Back?

The data tells the story: more Ohioans are buckling up than ever before. Following last year's successful *What's Holding You Back?* campaign, research conducted by Ohio's Miami University showed 74.7 percent of drivers wear a safety belt.

As director of the Ohio Department of Public Safety, I'm encouraged by this all-time high usage rate, but I'm not satisfied. As a state, we can do better. Doing better means saving more lives.

Starting May 24 through June 6, the Ohio Department of Public Safety, the Ohio State Highway Patrol and the Governor's Highway Safety Office will team up with local law enforcement, churches, hospitals, state agencies, Safe Communities and all emergency responders to increase seat belt use.

Tickets will be issued to those found in violation of Ohio state law. Officers warn drivers to "click it" or expect a "ticket." The "Click It or Ticket" campaign is a national movement coordinated by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). It is being incorporated with *Ohio's What's Holding You Back?* campaign as part of the 100 Days of Summer.

Think wearing a belt doesn't matter? Think again.

One person dies in a fatal crash every 13 minutes; 114 people die every day; 40,000 people die every year. Last year, more than half of all Ohioans who died on our roadways in motor vehicle crashes were unbuckled.

If you don't buckle, what's holding you back?



What's holding you back?



Buckle up!

National Emergency Medical Services Week



The Ohio Department of Public Safety's, EMS partnered with the Ohio Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) in honoring the extraordinary group of men and women who serve Ohio's communities as law enforcement, firefighters, emergency medical technicians (EMTs), and medics at the sixth Annual EMS Star of Life Awards dinner and ceremony during National EMS Week May 16-22, 2004. In addition, National Emergency Services for Children (EMSC) Day was May 19, 2004.

Nationally, the theme chosen this year was "EMS: There When You Need Us," which focused on the commitment and dedication

of the 750,000 EMS providers who provide an essential community service every day. In 2003, Ohio had 39,562 active EMTs and 93,238 active firefighters.

EMS agencies from Ohio's ten pre-hospital regions were selected to receive the new "You Gotta Have Heart" Award, which celebrates and acknowledges the EMS agencies and squad members who responded to cardiac incidents promptly and with exemplary professional action that demonstrated their training and commitment. These award recipients were honored at the EMS Star of Life Awards on May 20, 2004.

Ohio communities held activities honoring paramedics, EMTs, first responders, firefighters, and police. EMS providers also educated the public about injury prevention, safety awareness, defibrillators and medical emergencies.

One of the main emphases this year was helping communities save lives through early defibrillation programs. The good news is that a growing number of communities throughout the country are teaming up with their EMS providers and establishing early defibrillation programs to improve the survival odds of citizens struck by sudden cardiac arrest. By training citizen responders and placing automated external defibrillators (AEDs) in locations where people gather - office buildings, shopping malls, schools, community centers, sports complexes, senior centers, transportation terminals, parks and restaurants - many communities have achieved impressive results, with survival rates averaging 20 percent, with some reaching as high as 74 percent. The best of these programs brings the public and private sectors together.



IT'S ABOUT SAFETY



www.ohiopublicsafety.com

Ohio Department of
Public Safety
P. O. Box 182081
Columbus, OH 43218-2081

Susan Raber, Director, Communications
Editor, Lynne McBee, Communications
Layout & Design,
Kris Marple, Printing Services

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It is unlawful for anyone other
than the permit holder to mail
this publication.

Thumbs Up

...to the troopers from the Ohio State Highway Patrol's Canton and Medina Posts who seized marijuana valued at over \$1 million on Interstate 80 in Lorain County in early April.



...to the Highway Shooting Task Force whose diligence and pursuit led to the capture of the I-270 sniper.