

Drive Safe Hampton Roads

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Dispatch – August 2020

UPCOMING DATES...

- August 17 - Old Dominion University's Health Promotion's Annual Happy Hour with a Twist from 11:00am-3:00pm on ODU's SRC Field
- September 3 – Border to Border CMV Event, Chesapeake
- September 9-10 – Basic Truck Weighing 101, 8-5 in Hampton - Registration required
- September 15 – DSHR Board of Directors Meeting, 10:00am, via Google Meet
- September 16 – CMV Event
- September 17 – STSC Conference Committee meets 9:00am via Google Meet

DRIVE SAFE HAMPTON ROADS IS STILL OPEN...



Over the next few months, Drive Safe Hampton Roads will be continuing to operate according to pandemic guidelines. If you have programming suggestions, please let us know. <https://www.drivesafehr.org>
New members can join the organization via this link:
<https://www.drivesafehr.org/about-us/membership-form/>



SUMMERTIME SHOPPING

Don't forget to utilize **Amazon Smile**!!! When you purchase from Amazon, 05% of the purchase will be donated to Drive Safe Hampton Roads.

The quick, easy way <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/54-1856349>

FACT: Motor vehicle fatalities continue to rise, despite lockdown.



The National Safety Council has reported a 36.6% year-over-year rise in road fatality rates despite state lockdowns and other efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

WORK ZONE SAFETY TIPS

On average, over 700 fatalities occur in work zones each year. Check out these tips.

https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/ourroads/work-zones-safety-tips?utm_source=Email&utm_medium=Month_1&utm_term=Sec1_Button_WorkZone&utm_campaign=OROS_2020

FEEL FREE TO TWEET!



We need **YOUR** help in keeping the Drive Safe HR name in the community.

If you have a Facebook or Twitter account, be sure to mention Drive Safe HR when you post your pictures from the various events by using the tag '@DriveSafeHR'.

COMMERCIAL MOTOR VEHICLE DRIVER APPRECIATION DAY



Thank you to the volunteers for the July 22nd DAD-Peninsula event. This event ended up being delayed a month due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but we had a great turnout from the truck drivers, sponsors, and the volunteers themselves! Thank you! We finished up with 185 trucks coming through this event. Much appreciation is extended to the volunteers from Suffolk Police, Hampton Police, VDOT, Virginia State Police, as well as Jonathan Turner, Georjeane Blumling, Tina Harvey, and Jamin Gordon. Support was provided by Drive Safe Hampton Roads, in partnership with AAA Tidewater Virginia, Snyder's-Lance, Inc., Story Distributing, Capital Concrete, Inc., DRIVE SMART Virginia, Virginia State Police, VA Dept of Motor Vehicles Highway Safety Office, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Admin. (FMCSA), Virginia Dept. of Transportation (VDOT), and Local Law Enforcement Motor Carrier Units.



HAVE SOME SPARE TIME ON YOUR HANDS THESE DAYS?

Drive Safe has several positions that need volunteers from the membership. If you are interested in any of the following "jobs", please let us know. DSHR needs YOUR involvement to keep this organization running and moving forward.



DSHR Vice-President ----- **Occupant Protection Committee Chair**

Treasurer Assistant ----- **DSHR Board of Directors is accepting director nominations - Due Sept. 2**

DRIVE SAFE HR MEMBERSHIP



Drive Safe HR is in the process of updating its membership roster. If there are any changes to your title, employment, preferred mailing address, contact information (phone/email), please let us know so we can stay in touch.

SCHOOL STARTS SOON!



Tips for Motorists: Be alert and slow down when driving in neighborhoods with school zones. Watch for children walking, playing or assembling near bus stops. Children arriving late for the bus may dart into the street without looking for traffic. Obey the "flashing signal light system" used for school buses. **Yellow flashing lights** indicate the bus is preparing to stop to load or unload children. Motorists should slow down and prepare to stop their vehicles.

Red flashing lights and extended stop arms indicate the bus has stopped and children are getting on or off. Motorists must stop their cars and wait until the red lights stop flashing, the extended stop-arm is withdrawn, and the bus begins moving before they can start driving again.

2021 NHTSA COMMUNICATIONS AND HIGHWAY SAFETY EVENTS CALENDARS

The 2021 NHTSA Communications Calendar and the 2021 Highway Traffic Safety Events Calendar are now available. DriveSafeHR.org/events



THANK YOU SGT. LARRY MONTGOMERY, VSP...

In appreciation of your work this past year as President of Drive Safe Hampton Roads 2019-2020. At the recent CMV Driver Appreciation Day, Board Member Georjeane Blumling presented Sgt. Montgomery with a plaque acknowledging DSHR's appreciation of Larry's tenure as President for 2019-2020.

DISTRACTED DRIVING PREVENTION APP



CellGuardians is a new Android app that eliminates distracted driving caused by cell phones. It reminds the user to stay focused on the road and keep the phone down. CellGuardians allow the user to select some apps to remain open while driving, such as map and navigation apps and allows the user to exit when there is an emergency. CellGuardians has a patented web application that can be used by parents and employers to monitor and manage their teen drivers or their fleet drivers for safety.

SUMMER SAFETY ROAD TIPS

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) is offering 5 summer driving tips to help everyone travel safely this summer. "Drivers should avoid distractions, stay sober, always wear a seat belt, and make sure that children are in the correct car seat or booster seat!" [SUMMER TIPS](#)

2020 NATIONAL RAIL GRADE CROSSING SAFETY CAMPAIGN

October 5 - November 8, 2020: The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration ([NHTSA](#)), in coordination with the Federal Railroad Administration ([FRA](#)) and the Federal Transit Administration ([FTA](#)), is launching the 2020 national rail grade crossing safety campaign to increase public awareness about the dangers around railroad tracks in hopes to reduce fatalities at rail grade crossings. [CAMPAIGN MATERIALS](#)

Motor vehicle crashes at rail grade crossings are avoidable. This campaign is a focused effort to reverse the uptick in rail grade crossing fatalities. Our message is simple: **Stop. Trains Can't.**

SPEEDING ISN'T THE ONLY DANGEROUS DRIVING BEHAVIOR ON THE RISE DURING COVID-19

New data suggests that drivers aren't just speeding up on our empty roads — they're also braking harder, scrolling cell phones longer, and crashing more.

<https://usa.streetsblog.org/2020/05/07/speeding-isnt-the-only-dangerous-driving-behavior-on-the-rise-during-covid-19/>

FACT:



There have been over **120 recipients** of the John T. Hanna Award for Excellence in Traffic Safety since its beginnings in 1991. Thirty (30) of these Hanna winners have received recognition as a winner of the Virginia Governor's Transportation Safety Award.

The 2020 JOHN T. HANNA AWARDS: Recognizing Traffic Safety Excellence in Hampton Roads

In 1991, Concerned Citizens Advocating Traffic Safety (the previous name of Drive Safe HR) instituted the JOHN T. HANNA AWARDS. Named after Virginia's "Father of Transportation Safety", these awards honor those who share Mr. Hanna's tireless dedication and commitment to improving traffic safety on Virginia's highways. <https://www.drivesafehr.org/get-involved/john-t-hanna-awards/>

Please note that the Hanna Award **submission process is entirely online.

AWARD CATEGORIES

Lifetime Safety Achievement Award: Presented for lifetime achievement in the area of transportation safety.

Employer Safety: Presented for employers who have taken the extra initiative to promote traffic safety and encourage their employees to practice safe driving behaviors.

Martin H. Schlosser Award for Traffic Safety Activism: Presented for outstanding efforts in educating citizens and changing attitudes and behavior regarding transportation safety.

Roadway Innovations: Presented for Individuals and/or organizations that show exemplary achievement in the design and/or implementation of highway engineering techniques, technology, and innovative approaches.

Impaired Driving Prevention: Presented for encouraging the prevention of drunk, drugged, drowsy, and/or drugged driving.

Law Enforcement Initiatives: Presented to a law enforcement department or individual who has shown extra initiative above and beyond the normal duties to promote and encourage traffic safety within their community.

Legal: Presented to attorneys, judges, or legislators who have actively supported safety issues thus strengthening existing laws and creating new laws that impact communities to help improve or reduce highway safety-related behaviors.

Messaging/Media: Presented to individuals or organizations, including but not limited to media representatives or news outlets, that have created messaging, used an innovative outreach method, or have helped spread the word about traffic safety through reporting or programming.

Occupant Protection: Presented for promoting and encouraging the use of safety belts and/or child safety seats through creative and innovative programs and activities.

Transportation Safety: Presented for developing approaches in the public and/or private sector, encouraging, educating, and/or promoting traffic safety to improve safety for drivers and riders. (**MODIFIED CATEGORY**)

Youth Traffic Safety: Presented to persons or programs educating youth and spreading the message on the importance of youth traffic safety.

Fire/Emergency Medical Services: Presented for actions at crash scenes or for activities or efforts that have a broader impact on improving at-scene safety and/or survivability and injury reduction for victims. (**NEWEST CATEGORY**)

Eligibility, Rules, and Notification:

Any individual, business, organization, or governmental agency in the Hampton Roads and Eastern Shore area, which promotes community traffic safety, i.e. sober driving, use of safety belts, bicycle or pedestrian safety, motorcycle safety, incident management, etc., is eligible for nomination. Show us how you incorporated COVID policies into your programming! 2019 JOHN T. HANNA AWARD winners are not eligible for 2020 nomination. Eligible activities, programs or materials are those that were initiated, completed, published, or produced in the period from October 1, 2019 to September 30, 2020. Entries must be received by November 20, 2020.



FACT: In 2019 alone, 126 people were killed and 635 people were injured in collisions at railroad crossings. From 2014-2019, there were 798 fatalities involving motor vehicles at railroad crossings.

[Covid Impacts On Hampton Roads](#): HRTPO staff has been keeping track of regional travel levels during the COVID-19 pandemic. Check out this PDF with the most recent analysis of regional travel levels throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Hampton Roads COVID-19 Impact Planning Hub](#): The HRPDC will maintain this page to provide information, maps/data, and resources concerning the COVID-19 pandemic impact in the Hampton Roads region. The Hampton Roads Planning District Commission Planning Department built an online dashboard to track data at the local and regional level: the regional 7-day moving average of daily new cases, confirmed total cases, hospitalizations and deaths as well as cases per 10,000 population per locality, as well as rate of cases by zip code, race, gender and age. In addition to health data, certain transportation and economic data are updated weekly as it pertains to traffic volumes, vehicle miles traveled, and unemployment claims, which are three of the most immediately available indicators of the impact COVID-19 may be having on the regional economy.

DMV UPDATE

While overall traffic deaths have decreased in Virginia recently due to the pandemic, more people are dying in unbelted crashes. When comparing data between Jan. 1 - June 30 in 2019 and 2020, unrestrained fatalities increased nearly 16% this year. In response, Virginia DMV is promoting a buckle up educational campaign from now through the end of July. We encourage you to share DMV's seat belt video on your organization's social media outlets. Click on this YouTube link <https://youtu.be/5E26YsR-ExU> and select "share" under the video to post it on your social media sites.

FREE WEBINAR – THURSDAY, JULY 30

eDriving helps organizations to reduce collisions, injuries, license violations and total cost of fleet ownership through a patented driver risk management program. <http://www.edriving.com>

eDriving's upcoming webinar, **Making Driver Safety a Way of Life: Creating a Crash-Free Culture®**, where they will discuss how to reduce driver risk by creating a safety performance environment. In this webinar, you will learn how to establish a crash-free culture® by:

- Defining and communicating safety as a strategic performance imperative
- Establishing a holistic picture of driver risk
- Recognizing "at-risk" and "low-risk" driving behaviors
- Setting goals and using analytics to measure progress

This webinar is being offered for **free** with registration.

Thursday, July 30, 2020, 2-3:00pm ET @ <https://app.webinar.net/V7dKO2rOM10>

FACT:



Vehicle Thefts Spike Due to Unattended Cars During Pandemic. Lesson...Be sure to lock your cars, take the keys home, and park in well-lit areas.

SAFE, QUICK CLEARANCE OF TRAFFIC INCIDENTS TOOLKIT

The International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) created the Safe, Quick Clearance of Traffic Incidents toolkit to provide law enforcement executives with information that demonstrates the importance of adopting practices that facilitate the safe, quick clearance of traffic incidents in order to increase responder and public safety; reduce traffic congestion and the risk of secondary crashes; and the overall quality of life in communities. <https://www.theiacp.org/resources/safe-quick-clearance-of-traffic-incidents-toolkit>

FMCSA CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) INFORMATION & RESOURCES

FMCSA has extended the declaration of emergency. The extension of Emergency Declaration No. 2020-002 provides regulatory relief for commercial motor vehicle operations providing direct assistance in support of emergency relief efforts related to COVID-19 and is limited to transportation of (1) livestock and livestock feed; (2) medical supplies and equipment related to the testing, diagnosis and treatment of COVID-19; and (3) supplies and equipment necessary for community safety, sanitation, and prevention of community transmission of COVID-19 such as masks, gloves, hand sanitizer, soap and disinfectants. Direct assistance does not include routine commercial deliveries, including mixed loads with a nominal quantity of qualifying emergency relief added to obtain the benefits of this emergency declaration. FMCSA has concluded that there is no longer a need for emergency relief with respect to the other categories of supplies, equipment, and persons covered by the May 13 extension and expansion of Emergency Declaration No. 2020-002, and those categories are therefore no longer covered.

This notice extends the exemption through August 14, 2020, subject to the restrictions and limitations set forth in this Extension.

The guidance on the webpage is being adjusted accordingly, and specifically note that precursor items are not included for those items covered by this declaration.

Extension and Modification of Expanded Emergency Declaration No. 2020-002 Under 49 Cfr § 390.25
<https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/emergency/extension-and-modification-expanded-emergency-declaration-no-2020-002-under-49-cfr-ss>

Emergency Declarations, Waivers, Exemptions and Permits
<https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/emergency-declarations>

TEENAGER INVENTS A SOLUTION TO ELIMINATE BLIND SPOTS FOR CARS

A 14-year-old from West Grove, Pennsylvania, won a \$25,000 prize for creating a prototype designed to eliminate a car's blind spots. The A-pillar design in a car supports the windshield and provides protection in case of a crash. However, their size and angle also create blind spots, the area of the road not visible to drivers from their usual sitting position or rear-view and side mirrors. Gassler's project uses a webcam, projector, 3D printed adapter and retroreflective fabric to make a car's A-pillars invisible by displaying the image of the blind spot behind them onto the pillar. Read more at <https://www.cnn.com/2019/11/06/us/teenager-invention-blind-spot-trnd/index.html>

TRAFFIC SAFETY JOKES:

Q: When driving through fog, what should you use?

A: Your steering wheel.

Q: What is the difference between a flashing red traffic light and a flashing yellow traffic light?

A: The color.

Q: When is a car not a car?

A: When it turns into a parking lot.

DRIVE SAFE HAMPTON ROADS is a non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization whose mission is to inform and educate the public on traffic safety issues.



**Stay Well, Drive Safe, and Buckle Up!!
Every Trip, Every Time**

