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**Drive Safe Dispatch Newsletter
End of the Month Info
March 2019**

UPCOMING DATES AND HEADLINES...



- * April 8-12 – Work Zone Awareness Week
- * April 11 – VSTSM Conference Late Registration Ends at Midnight
- * April 14-16 – Mid-Atlantic DUI Conference
- * April 18 – ODU No Booza Palooza Carnival student event, 12-1:30
- * April 19 – All payments due for the VSTSM Conference
- * April 19 – DSHR Quarterly Reports Due
- * April 20 – Walk Like MADD, Richmond event
- * April 22 – Norfolk TCC Spring Fling student event
- * April 25 – Virginia Specialized Transportation Safety and Management Conference @ Lake Wright
- * April 30 – Board Director Nominations due
- * May 9 – DSHR Board of Directors meeting, 10:00, @ AAA Tidewater Virginia, Training Room #3
- * May 14 – Impaired Driving Prevention Committee Meeting, 11:00am, @ AAA Tidewater Virginia Training Room #3
- * May 17 – Absentee Voting available
- * May 17-19 – Chesapeake Jubilee, Chesapeake City Park, Greenbrier Parkway, Chesapeake
- * May 21-23 – Highway Safety Summit



The organization needs YOUR help!
Time to step up to the plate and become invested in YOUR organization.

If you would like to serve on as an officer of Drive Safe Hampton Roads or on the **Drive Safe Board of Directors**, please let us know right away.

In accordance with the Drive Safe HR Bylaws, the membership needs to vote on the nominations for the 2019-2021 Board of Directors at the June General Business Meeting. Absentee voting will be available beginning May 17. The Board of Directors shall number at least five (5) and no more than 11 (eleven) maintaining an odd number. The term of service is a minimum of two years with no cap on tenure.



Make a note...The **2018 Chesapeake Jubilee** is May 17, 18, and 19.

Please let us know no later than Wednesday, May 1st, if you are available to volunteer. Please contact dshr@drivesafehr.org if interested.

VA SPECIALIZED TRANSPORTATION SAFETY & MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE

Drive Safe Hampton Roads is holding the Virginia Specialized Transportation Safety and Management Conference Thursday, April 25, 2019, at the Quality Suites and Sleep Inn @ Lake Wright Hotels, 1521 Premium Outlets Blvd., Norfolk, Virginia.

Hosted by the Specialized Transportation Safety Committee of Drive Safe Hampton Roads, this Motor Carrier Conference will have a variety of speakers and outdoor vendors during the one-day conference to provide information and ideas to the motor carrier community. Topics to be covered include Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration Updates, Corporate Safety Excellence, Crash Investigation and Reconstruction, Traffic Incident Management, School Bus Safety, Homeland Safety / Security, Human Trafficking and how it involves the Trucking Industry, and Motor Carrier Inspections.

This conference is produced with the support of the following: Drive Safe Hampton Roads, DMV Highway Safety Office, Creative Vision, Capital Concrete, Inc., AAA Tidewater Virginia, Jones Printing Service, Inc., Virginia Department of Transportation, Virginia State Police, and Local Law Enforcement Motor Carrier Safety Teams.



Late Registration accepted until Midnight, Thursday, April 11. \$50 late registration costs.

STATE FARM

In an effort to reduce the number of accidents involving teen drivers, the Virginia State Police makes education about the dangers of distracted driving a priority. The Virginia State Police Distracted Driving Simulator provides a hands-on alternative to demonstrate the dangers of distracted driving in a safe and controlled environment. It is State Farm's hope, through education and awareness, to reduce or eliminate injuries and deaths due to distracted driving. If you are interested in having the simulator program in your school, please contact Sgt. Robert Campbell at Robert.Campbell@vsp.virginia.gov / (434) 447-4121, Ext.12202.





Don't forget to utilize **Amazon Smile!!!** When you make a purchase from Amazon, 0.5% of the purchase will be donated to Drive Safe Hampton Roads. Remember Drive Safe HR when shopping this holiday season! **THANK YOU! We appreciate your support.**

Whether you are a PrimeMember or an Amazon Member:

1. Visit smile.amazon.com.
2. Sign in and choose Drive Safe Hampton Roads Inc.
3. Begin shopping!

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



As of February 2019, Drive Safe Hampton Roads has received **\$139.27** from those ordering with Amazon Smile. Amazon Smile is the same thing as Amazon and Amazon Prime **except** that Amazon Smile will donate 0.5% to the charity of your choice. **Hopefully Drive Safe Hampton Roads will be the organization selected by you.** Give it a try and let's see the results.

CarFit



This program offers **adults 55 and older** the opportunity to check how well their personal vehicles "fit" them. Technicians guide participants through a 12-point checklist to correctly adjust mirror positions, the distance between their chest and the steering wheel, and other vehicle features. One-on-one appointments are available. For more information on an appointment or an event, please call AAA Tidewater Virginia at 757-233-3889.

PUT THE BRAKES ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING



At the Department of Transportation, initiatives are underway to increase awareness of human trafficking and equip transportation industry employees and the public with strategies to fight it. The Department of Transportation is ensuring that truck drivers using a commercial vehicle to commit human trafficking permanently lose their commercial license. So please, join us in this effort by signing the TLAHT pledge, issuing a statement, training your employees, and conducting public awareness campaigns. Together, we can help put an end to the inhumanity of human trafficking.

<https://www.transportation.gov/connections/put-brakes-human-trafficking>

NATIONAL DISTRACTED DRIVING ENFORCEMENT MOBILIZATION

April 8-15, 2019

April is National Distracted Driving Awareness Month and, in support of this traffic safety initiative, NHTSA will be kicking off its annual "**U Text. U Drive. U Pay.**" national high visibility enforcement campaign to prevent distracted driving.

Additionally, NHTSA has developed a robust social media strategy designed to raise public awareness about the consequences of texting and driving. The focus is on the idea that "**If you're texting, you're not driving.**" We anticipate that this message will engage the target audience of men and women 18-34 with creative and persuasive messaging on NHTSA's social media channels and from our media partners.

Paid advertising will run April 8-15, 2019.

Currently available:

2019 Campaign Materials:

<https://www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov/get-materials/distracted-driving/u-drive-u-text-u-pay>

2019 Enforcement Kit:

<https://www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov/get-materials/distracted-driving/u-drive-u-text-u-pay/peak-enforcement-kit>

FACT: In 2015, nearly 5,000 people were injured and close to 250 died in alcohol-related traffic incidents in Virginia. 100% of which were preventable. So, before you plan to drink, plan to answer this: **Who's your driver?**

SaferRide, NHTSA's Mobile App



NHTSA's **SaferRide** app will help keep drunk drivers off our roads by allowing users to call a taxi or a friend and by identifying their location so they can be picked up.

For Android devices, from Google Play

store: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.nhtsa.SaferRide>

For Apple devices, from iTunes: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/saferride/id950774008?mt=8>



FACT: The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has released major findings from the 2017 FARS files in a research note. Findings show that in 2017 alcohol-impaired driving fatalities declined by 1.1%, while the proportion of people killed “outside the vehicle” (motorcyclists, pedestrians, pedalcyclists, and other nonoccupants) increased from a low of 20 percent in 1996 to a high of 33 percent in 2017.



<https://crashstats.nhtsa.dot.gov/Api/Public/ViewPublication/812603>

IIHS STUDY: DRIVERS MORE LIKELY TO FIDDLE WITH PHONES

Cellphone interactions up 57 percent over prior survey

Manipulating a cellphone was a contributing factor in more than 800 crash deaths on U.S. roads during 2017 amid a marked increase in the percentage of drivers observed interacting with cellphones, new IIHS research indicates. The estimated number of deaths, however, still represents a fraction of the overall crash death toll.

Virginia drivers observed in a 2018 IIHS roadside survey were 57 percent more likely to be manipulating a cellphone than drivers in a 2014 survey. The percentage of drivers observed manipulating a phone rose from 2.3 percent in 2014 to 3.4 percent in 2018.

At the same time, drivers were less likely to be seen simply holding a cellphone or talking on a hand-held phone than in the prior survey. The finding is consistent with research indicating that drivers are talking on hand-held phones less and fiddling with them more often than in recent years.

In 2018, 3.7 percent of drivers in Northern Virginia were observed talking on a hand-held cellphone, compared with 4.1 percent of drivers in 2014, while 2.8 percent of drivers in 2018 were seen holding a cellphone, compared with 4.9 percent in the prior survey.

The problem of distracted driving, especially cellphone use, continues to raise concerns. A 2018 national survey by the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety found that 64 percent of respondents consider distracted driving a much bigger problem today than it was three years ago.

Read more at <https://www.iihs.org/iihs/news/desktopnews/distracted-driving-cellphone-manipulations-up-57-percent-over-prior-survey>



HRBT AND VITAL INFRASTRUCTURE

There are many large and unique bridge and tunnel structures located throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia, and in particular in the Hampton Roads region. VDOT – based on legislation passed by the General Assembly – has recently completed a study on the funding needs of structures referred to as Very Large, Indispensable Transportation Asset List (VITAL) Infrastructure. Based on the VDOT review of the statewide structure inventory, 25 locations throughout the Commonwealth that are owned by VDOT have been designated as VITAL Infrastructure. These locations have been classified based on whether they are tunnels, movable bridges, or large and complex structures. <https://www.hrtpo.org/news/article/january/30/2019/hrbt-and-vital-infrastructure/>

SAVE THE DATE! GREAT AMERICAN CLEANUP KICK-OFF EVENT, MAY 3-4

Mark your calendars, Hampton Roads! Through a partnership with Keep Virginia Beautiful, askHRgreen.org is excited to announce the Great American Cleanup Kick-off event coming to Hampton Roads May 3-4, 2019. <https://www.hrpdca.gov/news/article/january/30/2019/save-the-date%21-great-american-cleanup-kick-off-event%2C-may-3-4/>

FACT: About 37,000 people died in motor vehicle crashes in 2017. Assuming the prevalence of phone manipulation nationwide rose as it did in Northern Virginia to 3.4 percent, and assuming, based on the latest research, that fatal crash risk is 66 percent higher when manipulating a phone, then more than 800 of the estimated crash deaths in 2017 could be attributed to phone manipulation.



<https://www.iihs.org/iihs/news/desktopnews/distracted-driving-cellphone-manipulations-up-57-percent-over-prior-survey>

DID YOU KNOW?

Shared from the Smart, Safe & Sober Newsletter

Virginia Vehicle Inspection Stickers Redesigned

New Safety Approval Sticker Promotes 'Move Over' Safety Message

The Virginia State Police Safety Division is rolling out a newly-designed vehicle safety approval inspection sticker that now includes a traffic safety message. Effective Jan. 1, 2019, all certified Virginia inspection stations began issuing the sticker which has been reduced from 2.75 inches in height to 2 inches and from 4 inches in length to 3 inches. The year of expiration is now permanently affixed to the right side of the sticker, with the only insert being the month of expiration. Even though the overall size has been reduced, the month has been enlarged to provide better visibility. The sticker's security features have also been enhanced in order to discourage and prevent unauthorized removal, tampering and counterfeit practices. The changes in size and design do not apply to motorcycle or trailer safety inspection stickers. Vehicle rejection stickers also remain unchanged. The placement of the sticker was changed in 2018 from the center of the windshield to the bottom, left corner due to safety concerns related to automotive innovations in recent years. The center placement of the sticker could prevent a vehicle's crash avoidance system from operating properly.



Registration is NOW OPEN for the 7th Annual Distracted Driving Summit **presented by DRIVE SMART Virginia** on **September 25-26, 2019** at the Hotel Roanoke. Engaging and cutting-edge topics related to law enforcement, targeted populations, research and technology, and corporate and community strategies will be represented on this year's agenda. Join DRIVE SMART Virginia at this summit to continue to learn valuable methods to fight distracted driving!

WHEN

Wednesday, September 25, 2019 7:30 AM - Thursday, September 26, 2019 12:00 PM
Eastern Time Zone

WHERE

Hotel Roanoke
110 Shenandoah Ave NW, Roanoke, Virginia 24016, USA

FACT:

Shared from DRIVE SMART Virginia



Last year in Virginia, 24,350 distraction-related crashes killed 126 people and injured 13,733.* Distracted driving is any activity that diverts attention from driving, including talking or texting on your phone, talking to people in your vehicle, fiddling with the stereo, entertainment or navigation system - anything that draws your focus away from the task of driving. Fiddling with a phone is one of the most dangerous forms of distraction. It involves your hands, eyes, and attention.

*preliminary figures

7 ACTION STEPS AGAINST DISTRACTION

1) **Avoid temptation** to talk or text on your phone. Turn it off while driving or place your device in the glove box or center console so it's out of sight and out of mind.

2) **Vary your route** when possible, so routine trips like commuting to and from work don't become mundane.

3) **Keep your eyes moving**. Make a full mirror sweep with your eyes every 5-6 seconds to stay alert and ward off allowing your mind to wander.

4) **Keep a safe following distance**. Driver training experts suggest a following distance of 3-4 seconds in good weather—more in inclement weather. The 3-4-second following rule increases visibility and gives more time to react to what's happening in front of you, reducing risk to you and your passengers.

5) **Clear your mind**. You cannot focus on driving if your mind is on work or family pressure or your to-do list. Take a moment before you drive to get your mind focused on the task at hand—getting to your destination safely.

6) **Have a plan**. Don't wait until you are driving to plan and become familiar with your route. Use navigation devices with voice directions and set them prior to pulling out.

7) **Help others help themselves**. Make it a practice when you call someone's cell phone to ask if they are driving. If the answer is "yes," take it upon yourself to call back later or ask them to return your call when they've reached their destination. And never text someone you know to be driving.

On average, over 700 fatalities occur in work zones each year. Trucks and buses have limited maneuverability and large blind spots, both of which make operating in these areas more challenging for them. In fact, large trucks are disproportionately involved in work zone crashes.

NATIONAL WORK ZONE AWARENESS WEEK IS APRIL 8-12, 2019.

Help spread the word! Download campaign materials, graphics and social media content, <https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/ourroads/national-work-zone-awareness-week-campaign-materials>

Check out **TIPS FOR TRAVELING IN WORK ZONES**

https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/ourroads/tips-traveling-safely-work-zones?utm_source=govdelivery&utm_medium=eblast&utm_campaign=OROS_2019&utm_term=NWZAW

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.



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



*****Just in case you find any mistakes in this month's newsletter, please remember they were put there for a purpose. We try to offer something for everyone. Be sure to let us know if you find any. ☺***