

# Drive Safe Hampton Roads

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## Dispatch – April 2021

### WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST DRIVE SAFE HR MEMBER...

Sergeant David Price, Virginia Beach Police Department  
Sergeant Jennifer Johannesen, Virginia Beach Police Department

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### UPCOMING DATES...

-  Mar 22-Apr 12, 2021 – Rail Grade Crossing Safety Campaign
- April is National Distracted Driving Awareness Month
- April 5-12, 2021 – "U Drive - U Text - U Pay" Distraction Campaign
- April 20, 2021 – Dare to Prepare Virtual Workshop (FREE), 6-7pm (more info on page 2)
- September 16-17, 2021 – DRIVE SMART Virginia Distracted Driving Summit

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### DRIVE SAFE HAMPTON ROADS...

Have you checked out the Drive Safe HR website lately? <https://www.drivesafehr.org>



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**SUPPORT DRIVE SAFE HAMPTON ROADS WHILE YOU SHOP!** If you are an Amazon user, you can make a difference while you shop on Amazon! Use the link to shop and Amazon will donate 0.5% of the purchase to DSHR. Make DSHR your Amazon Smile charity today! <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/54-1856349>

This quarter, **Drive Safe Hampton Roads** received **\$47.94** as a result of qualifying purchases made by those who have selected DSHR as their charity to support.

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### MEMBERSHIP: DON'T FORGET TO REPORT YOUR IN-KIND HOURS

DMV grants require 25% match documentation of in-kind service hours from the DSHR membership. Please be sure to collect this information so it can be documented monthly. Don't forget to count any travel time involved.

**Collect the following information NLT the 7th** for the previous month's volunteer hours and email to [DSHR@drivesafehr.org](mailto:DSHR@drivesafehr.org): Your name, Month tracking for, Task site, Event or type of activity, Number of hours towards the Occupant Protection Grant, and Number of hours towards the Impaired Driving Prevention Grant. If you are not sure which grant to apply your time to, we can assist you with this; be sure to identify the task clearly.



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**DID YOU KNOW...** In February 1989, the first "Child Safety Seat Check" at Lynnhaven Mall North was organized. 27 safety seats were crushed at what is now Lynnhaven Mall in Virginia Beach. Counting that first seat crushing, Drive Safe Hampton Roads has collected **over 18,000 seats**...an average of almost 600 seats a year.

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## DRIVE SMART Virginia WEBINARS



The DRIVE SMART Virginia Virtual Safety Series ended with the March 17<sup>th</sup> webinar. However, workplaces and groups can request personalized webinars through their website! <https://www.drivesmartva.org/outreach-and-education/training-request-form/>

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## NATIONAL DISTRACTED DRIVING ENFORCEMENT MOBILIZATION APRIL 5-12, 2021



This year's **U Drive. U Text. U Pay.** high visibility enforcement (HVE) media campaign centers on aiding law enforcement officers in their efforts to keep texting and distracted drivers off the road. Distracted driving is a first offense in many States and continues to gain recognition across the nation as a deadly traffic safety epidemic. <https://www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov/get-materials/distracted-driving/u-drive-u-text-u-pay>

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## IF YOU FEEL DIFFERENT YOU DRIVE DIFFERENT 420 DRUG-IMPAIRED DRIVING PREVENTION CAMPAIGN APRIL 20, 2021

Although its origins are uncertain, April 20<sup>th</sup> (more commonly known as 420) has become synonymous with marijuana use and, in some circles, the date is a marijuana “holiday.” On Tuesday, April 20, 2021, there will likely be an increase in marijuana use. NHTSA is teaming up with State and local traffic safety advocates to spread the message that drug-impaired driving of any kind is dangerous and illegal. NHTSA wants to remind all drivers: ***If You Feel Different, You Drive Different.*** <https://www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov/get-materials/drug-impaired-driving/420-impaired-driving-prevention>

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### FACT:

According to NHTSA, between 2009 and 2018, of those drivers killed in crashes and tested for marijuana, the presence of marijuana had nearly doubled.

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## MARIJUANA AND DRIVING: KEEP YOUR FLEET’S DRIVERS SAFE



What’s the difference between cannabis and marijuana?  
What are the effects of marijuana use on driving?  
How can employers reduce the risk of impairment from marijuana use among drivers? Let’s explore answers to these and other questions.

<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/motorvehicle/ncmvs/newsletter/ncmvsnewsletter5n4.html>

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## TEENS AND SPEEDING: BREAKING THE DEADLY CYCLE

*Teens and Speeding: Breaking the Deadly Cycle*, a new report from GHSA and Ford Motor Company Fund, highlights the significant role speeding plays in teen driver fatalities and offers practical tools to help parents rein in this lethal driving habit. <https://www.ghsa.org/resources/Teens-and-Speeding-Report21>



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**FACT:** The new analysis for GHSA found that from 2015 to 2019, teen drivers and passengers (16-19 years of age) accounted for a greater proportion of speeding-related fatalities (43%) than all other age groups (30%). During this five-year period, 4,930 teen drivers and passengers died in speeding-related crashes.

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## AAA DARE TO PREPARE VIRTUAL WORKSHOP



If you're a parent or guardian with a soon-to-be teen driver, you may find yourself asking any number of questions about what you and your teen are facing. Get the facts about novice driving laws, licensing requirements, parental role in driving, insurance, and other issues until their teen comes home with their learner's permit. AAA is hosting a **FREE Dare to Prepare Workshop on Tuesday, April 20, 2021 from 6pm-7pm.**

This **free** workshop will provide important information about the process of getting a driver's license and traffic safety practices that will help your teen to be a smart driver on the road. Limited space available. **To register, click here:** [https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_SrCjBBICR-6Gv3QYFuGK2w](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_SrCjBBICR-6Gv3QYFuGK2w)

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## DMV UPDATE:

As spring-like weather continues to roll in, motorcyclists roll out to enjoy the highways and byways of the Commonwealth. To help spread a message of safety, the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV)



launched a campaign urging motorcyclists to wear the proper gear when taking to the road and motorists to be on the lookout for the more vulnerable road users. Wearing the proper gear, from head to toe, can often save a motorcyclist's life during a crash. Motorcyclists and other vulnerable road users, such as bicyclists and pedestrians, are more susceptible to serious injuries as a result of crashes because they are much smaller and lack the protections of larger vehicles on the road. On February 24, 2021, DMV released a new Motorcycle Safety media campaign:

[https://www.dmv.virginia.gov/general/news/pressReleases/#!/News\\_Article:14760](https://www.dmv.virginia.gov/general/news/pressReleases/#!/News_Article:14760)

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## 2021'S BEST & WORST STATES TO DRIVE IN

Everyone hates being stuck in traffic. It makes you late, and causes many people's tempers to flare up. But it's also quite bad for your wallet – in fact, congestion cost U.S. drivers \$88 billion in 2019, as well as an average of 99 hours of their time. The U.S. also has five out of the world's 25 worst cities for traffic, and 19 of the worst 25 in North America. Due to COVID-19, 2020's traffic congestion numbers are likely to be lower overall. As of October 2020, cumulative travel on roads in 2020 was over 380 billion vehicle miles fewer than the same period in 2019, a reduction of 13.9%.

[https://wallethub.com/edu/best-worst-states-to-drive-in/43012?mc\\_cid=0da1c5b5e6&mc\\_eid=7129d0d6c3](https://wallethub.com/edu/best-worst-states-to-drive-in/43012?mc_cid=0da1c5b5e6&mc_eid=7129d0d6c3)

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## DMV OFFERS SOME TIPS TO HELP MOTORISTS HEIGHTEN THEIR AWARENESS OF MOTORCYCLES:

For more information about motorcycle safety, visit [tzdva.org](http://tzdva.org).

- Allow for the extra following distance behind motorcycles because riders often slow down by downshifting or coasting, which means the brake lights aren't always activated.
- Since a motorcycle's narrow profile can cause it to be hidden in a car's blind spot when it's behind a car, check rear view mirrors often to be aware of motorcycles approaching or following.
- Take an extra moment to look twice for motorcycles when changing lanes, turning at intersections, pulling out of driveways or pulling into traffic because motorcycles may look farther away than they are, and it can be difficult to judge a motorcycle's speed.
- Be mindful that a motorcycle's turn signals aren't always self-canceling like a car's turn signals. Some riders, especially beginners, may forget to turn them off after a turn or lane change.
- Be aware that when motorcyclists adjust lane position within a lane, they are not being reckless or trying to show off. The adjustment is often made to improve visibility and to minimize the effects of debris, passing vehicles or wind.

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**FACT:** In 2020, 87 motorcyclists died in crashes on Virginia roadways, according to preliminary figures. More than 1,700 crashes involving motorcyclists were reported and 1,479 motorcyclists were injured; 672 of those injuries were categorized as serious.

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### CHILD SAFETY SEAT INSTALLATION



Parents, grandparents, and anyone else who drives with young children in the car should be able to handle child safety seats properly. That's why AAA offers free child safety seat checks, during which trained technicians will make sure your child's car seat is installed safely and correctly.

**During the COVID-19 restrictions, AAA is offering virtual conference call appointments for child safety seat checks from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Contact AAA Tidewater Virginia to make an appointment at 757-233-3889.**

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### VIRGINIA'S PRELIMINARY CRASH DATA FOR 2020

Data shows there was an overall increase in highway fatalities of 827 in 2019 to 847 in 2020. Speed-related fatalities were no exception. In 2019 there were 349 speed-related fatalities and 404 in 2020. The Department of Motor Vehicles Highway Safety Office has reviewed TREDs crash data and preliminary 2021 data shows a decline in speed-related fatalities. As of February 28, the 2021 data reflects 31 speed-related fatalities compared to 57 speed-related fatalities in 2020. Thanks to you and the implementation of the "Right Now Strategies " email in September of 2020, preliminary data for September 2020 through December 2020 shows a 4% decrease (131 to 126) in speed-related fatalities compared to the same time in 2019.

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**FACT:** While the COVID-19 pandemic has led to an appalling loss of life worldwide from the illness, the corresponding reduction in traffic has resulted in a drop in road deaths in many countries. <https://www.worldhighways.com/wh12/news/safer-roads-many-countries-2020>

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### THIS FUTURISTIC TECHNOLOGY EXPOSES DROWSY DRIVERS

A technology developing company has introduced a new in-cabin sensor to detect and prevent drowsy, distracted, or otherwise dangerous driving amongst truck drivers. <https://cdllife.com/2021/this-futuristic-technology-exposes-drowsy-drivers/>

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### NHTSA RELEASES 2019 CRASH FATALITY DATA

There were 36,096 fatalities in motor vehicle traffic crashes in 2019. This represents a decrease of 739 (down 2%) from the reported 36,835 fatalities in 2018, even though vehicle miles traveled (VMT) increased by 0.8%. As a result, the fatality rate for 2019 was 1.10 fatalities per 100 million VMT – the lowest rate since 2014, and down from 1.14 fatalities per 100 million VMT in 2018. <https://www.nhtsa.gov/press-releases/roadway-fatalities-2019-fars>



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**FACT:** Incidents of distracted driving persist despite more than 97% of passengers confronting a motorist who had let their focus slip from the road. The survey also found 22.5% of respondents had been a passenger in a crash caused by a distracted driver. <https://www.autobodynews.com/index.php/industry-news/item/21950-distracted-driving-trend-persists-despite-passenger-complaints.html>

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## TRAIN NOTES:

In 2017, there were 2,106 collisions reported at rail crossings in the U.S.

If lights are flashing or the gate is down at a railroad crossing, wait for the train to pass completely, the gates to lift, and the lights to stop flashing before crossing. It is never okay to rush across and try to beat the train. Trains may be closer and faster than you think.

Don't be tempted to walk along the train tracks. It is against the law to walk on the track and the land around it because it is private property.

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## AVOID THESE COMMON DANGERS NEAR RAILROAD TRACKS

Trains are exciting and fun for many reasons, but railroad tracks and train crossings can be dangerous. Here are some train and railroad safety tips:

[https://www.safekids.org/safetytips/field\\_risks/railroad-safety?eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=5a344947-76f0-4f8f-a26d-3a49cb0da8d2](https://www.safekids.org/safetytips/field_risks/railroad-safety?eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=5a344947-76f0-4f8f-a26d-3a49cb0da8d2)

- Allow enough space for your vehicle to completely clear the entire railroad crossing, not just the tracks, before you attempt to cross. Remember, trains are at least three feet wider than the tracks on either side, so even though you clear the tracks, you may still get hit by the train.
- If you are using a cell phone, headphones or playing a game on your mobile phone, remember: Heads Up, Devices Down when you cross the tracks. Once a train starts to brake, it can take a mile for the train to stop. So, when you see a train, it's already too late for it to stop for you. Headphones should be removed so that you can hear an approaching train.

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## NHTSA TRAFFIC SAFETY FACTS: PASSENGER VEHICLES

In 2018, 22,697 passenger vehicle occupants died in motor vehicle traffic crashes and an estimated 2.43 million passenger vehicle occupants were injured.

<https://crashstats.nhtsa.dot.gov/Api/Public/ViewPublication/812962>

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## CONSUMER ALERT: IMPORTANT KIA SPORTAGE & CADENZA RECALL FOR FIRE RISK

Owners of select Model Year 2017-2021 Kia Sportage and Cadenza vehicles should park their cars outside and away from homes until their vehicles have been repaired, due to a new recall for the risk of fire. <https://static.nhtsa.gov/odi/rcl/2021/RCLRPT-21V137-9464.PDF>

Kia Motors America issued a safety recall (NHTSA ID 21V-137) for 379,931 select Sportage and Cadenza vehicles not equipped with Smart Cruise Control. Until these recalled vehicles have been repaired, the safest place to park them is outside and away from homes and other structures.

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***DRIVE SAFE HAMPTON ROADS is a non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization whose mission is to improve highway safety, and reduce injuries and deaths from vehicle crashes.***

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

