

Drive Safe Hampton Roads

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Dispatch – July 2021

UPCOMING DATES...



July 3 – Cruise-In and Curls for Chris – Free event in New Town, Williamsburg, 10-12

July 13 – CMV Regional Check (Virginia Beach)

July 13-21 – The Department of Motor Vehicles annual Highway Safety Summit (virtual)

July 15 – Dare to Prepare Virtual Workshop (FREE), 6-7pm

August 10 – CMV Regional Check (VSP)

August 28 – Dare to Prepare Virtual Workshop (FREE), 10-11am

September 16-17, 2021 – DRIVE SMART Virginia Distracted Driving Summit (in-person)

September 29-30 – Basic Truck Weighing 101 (Registration Required)

October 19-21 - NETS 2021 Strength IN Numbers® Annual Road Safety Conference

Welcome to our newest Drive Safe HR Member!

Christine King



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.

Collect the following information NLT the 7th for the previous month's volunteer hours and email to DSHR@drivesafehr.org: Your name, month tracking for, task, event or type of activity, number of hours towards the Occupant Protection Grant, and number of hours towards the Impaired Driving Prevention Grant.

2020-2021 DRIVE SAFE HAMPTON ROADS OFFICERS



President: Catherine Wilson, *AAA Tidewater Virginia*

Vice-President: Keri Douglas, *MI Technical Solutions, Inc.*

Treasurer: Pat Davidson, *Community Advocate*

DRIVE SAFE HAMPTON ROADS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Georjeane Blumling, *Community Advocate*



Board
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FACT: In 2019, 515 people died in motor vehicle crashes over the July 4th holiday period). 38% (198) of those fatalities occurred in alcohol-impaired-driving crashes.



SUPPORT DRIVE SAFE HAMPTON ROADS WHILE YOU SHOP!

Want to help make a difference while you shop in the Amazon app, at no extra cost to you? Simply follow the instructions below to select "Drive Safe Hampton Roads Inc" as your charity and activate AmazonSmile in the app. They'll donate a portion of your eligible mobile app purchases to us. Make DSHR your Amazon Smile charity!

How it works:

1. Open the Amazon app on your phone
2. Select the main menu (=) & tap on "AmazonSmile" within Programs & Features
3. Select "Drive Safe Hampton Roads Inc" as your charity
4. Follow the on-screen instructions to activate AmazonSmile in the mobile app



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.

AAA offers virtual conference call appointments for child safety seat checks from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Make an appointment at 757-233-3889.

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 Saturday, June 19, 2021 from 10am-11am.**

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_rEaZbmWfT8OMnFilSXXThw



FACT: During the 2019 July 4th holiday period, 69% of those who died in alcohol-impaired crashes were in a crash involving at least one driver or motorcycle operator with a BAC of .15 or above.

4TH OF JULY IMPAIRED DRIVING PREVENTION CAMPAIGN

We all love to celebrate the 4th of July with family, friends, food, and fireworks, but all too often the festivities turn tragic on our nation's roads. The fact is, this American holiday also brings increased drinking and impaired driving with potential deadly consequences.

**IF YOU FEEL DIFFERENT
YOU DRIVE DIFFERENT**

- From 2015 to 2019, there were 1,339 drivers killed in motor vehicle traffic crashes over the 4th of July holiday period. 38% (512) of the drivers killed were alcohol-impaired (BAC of .08+).

<https://www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov/get-materials/others/4th-july>



FACT: In 2018, 46% of drivers who were killed in crashes and were tested for drugs, tested POSITIVE.



JULY IS NATIONAL THEFT PREVENTION MONTH

Motor vehicles are the primary mode of transportation for most of us, and often, an indispensable part of our lives. Having said this, nearly \$6 billion was lost to motor vehicle thefts in 2019.

What would happen if your vehicle suddenly disappeared?

- There were 721,885 motor vehicles stolen in 2019.
- Only 56.1% of all stolen motor vehicles were recovered.
- Of all motor vehicles stolen, 74.5% were passenger vehicles.

<https://www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov/get-materials/vehicle-safety/vehicle-theft-prevention>

**SAFE KIDS WORLDWIDE
STEPS TO PREVENT HEATSTROKE:
PARK, LOOK, LOCK**

As Temperatures Heat Up, Never Leave a Child Alone in a Car.

<https://www.safekids.org/infographic/steps-prevent-heatstroke?eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=16efd4ff-162a-4ed7-82d4-3b64c2457975>

2021'S MOST DANGEROUS DAYS FOR A DUI

Drunk driving remains a significant problem throughout the country. But certain days are more dangerous on the roads than others. MoneyGeek analyzed historical data from the U.S. Department of Transportation and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) to forecast 2021's most dangerous days, weeks and holidays for drunk driving in the United States. The week leading up to July 4th is forecasted to be the most-deadly days in 2021. Check out MoneyGeek's forecasted risk information:

<https://www.moneygeek.com/insurance/auto/resources/most-dangerous-dui-days/>

FACT: <https://crashstats.nhtsa.dot.gov/Api/Public/ViewPublication/813078>

In 2019, there were 322 people who died in crashes that involved distracted teen drivers 15 to 19. In 2019, there were 233 teens 15 to 19 who were killed in distraction-affected crashes. In 2019, there were 273 distracted teen drivers 15 to 19 involved in fatal crashes.

DRIVING HABITS CAN PREDICT DEMENTIA

A recent study published by the MDPI Journal of Geriatrics analyzed naturalistic driving data to predict mild cognitive impairment and dementia in older drivers. The study used driving variables to predict whether a driver would later be diagnosed with mild cognitive impairment or dementia.

Abstract synopsis: https://hooklawcenter.com/2021/05/20/driving-habits-can-predict-dementia/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Today%27s%20Top%20Stories&utm_content=6261610678745&utm_source=Hook+Law+Center+Newsletter&utm_campaign=61ce265665-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2021_05_20_04_11&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_69b4abe7eb-61ce265665-131549739 Original Article: <https://mail.aol.com/webmail-std/en-us/suite>



- 1. Avoid Heatstroke: Avoid heatstroke-related injury and death by never leaving a child alone in a car, not even for a minute. And make sure to keep your car locked when you're not inside so kids don't get in on their own.
- 2. Create Reminders: Keep a stuffed animal or other memento in your child's car seat when it's empty, and move it to the front seat as a visual reminder when your child is in the back seat. Or place and secure your phone, bracelet or purse in the backseat when traveling with your child.
- 3. Take Action: If you see a child alone in a car, call 911. Emergency personnel want you to call. They are trained to respond to these situations.





FACT:

Rail Fatalities in 2018: 16; ▲ 77.8% between 2008-2018
<https://www.bts.gov/sites/bts.dot.gov/files/states2020/Virginia.pdf>

RAILROAD SAFETY

Trains are exciting and fun for many reasons: The size, the speed, the sounds. But railroad tracks and train crossings can be dangerous as well. Here are some train and railroad safety tips to help keep your family safe near tracks and trains.

<https://www.safekids.org/railroad-safety?eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=033f4dfd-e9f2-43a0-8348-682618adb0aa>



STATE FARM DRIVER EDUCATION TEACHER PORTAL!

DRIVE SMART Virginia recently announced that they launched a new addition to their DRIVE SMART University resource page! The new State Farm Driver Education Teacher Portal houses a myriad of resources that can assist with teaching driver education, especially in a virtual environment. The teacher portal is an all-inclusive page where educators and community members alike can benefit from having educational materials that will aid in informing teens on the importance of safe driving!



The Driver Education Teacher Portal has informative videos featuring industry professionals who speak about the consequences of drinking and driving, the effects of distracted driving, the importance of pedestrian safety and more. The PowerPoint presentations with accompanying worksheets will complement student learning. Visit this page for additional videos and webinar links and do your part in keeping our youth and community at large informed and safe!

<https://www.drivesmartva.org/teen/teacher-portal/>

FACT: Six percent of all drivers involved in fatal crashes in 2019 were reported as distracted at the time of the crashes. Nine percent of drivers 15 to 20 years old involved in fatal crashes were reported as distracted. This age group has the largest proportion of drivers who were distracted at the time of the fatal crashes.

<https://crashstats.nhtsa.dot.gov/Api/Public/ViewPublication/813111>



NEW DRINKING HABITS? OWN YOUR OWN LIMITS...

If your drinking habits shifted during stay-at-home orders, other factors could have too, like your weight or diet. Based on these factors, know your limit before you go out and stick to it. Everyone's body processes alcohol differently based on personal factors such as age, weight, gender or a family history of alcohol use problems. Now's the time to brush up on what it means to drink responsibly in preparation for the summer. Both products noted below can be used to help prevent alcohol misuse and promote responsible drinking throughout the year.

Check out and share this new video on what drinking too much looks like versus drinking responsibly. <https://www.ownyourlimits.org/responsible-drinking/what-is-too-much/drinking-too-much-video/>

Help prevent alcohol misuse and promote responsible drinking year-round by busting common myths about alcohol. <https://www.ownyourlimits.org/responsible-drinking/how/bust-drinking-myths/>

Learning how to drink responsibly or identify alcohol use concerns can be confusing, but the following resources can help. Own Your Limits, a Defense Department program, is an educational campaign for the U.S. military. <https://www.ownyourlimits.org/materials/download-campaign-materials/>

NEW LAWS FOR 2021

(information courtesy of AAA Tidewater Virginia and DMV Hauling Program)

SB 1406 / HB 2312 Marijuana; legalization of simple possession; penalties

- Eliminates criminal penalties for simple possession of up to one ounce of marijuana by persons 21 years of age or older.
- Modifies several other criminal penalties related to marijuana.
- Effective July 1, 2021:
 - Simple possession of up to 1 ounce.
 - Home cultivation up to 4 plants.
 - Cannabis Open Container: It is unlawful for any person to use or consume marijuana or marijuana products while driving a motor vehicle upon a public highway of the Commonwealth or while being a passenger in a motor vehicle being driven upon a public highway of the Commonwealth. Class 4 misdemeanor.
 - \$1 million dedicated to evidence-based marijuana prevention and education programs, including programs focused on youth and college-aged populations.
 - \$1 million dedicated to DRE training.
- Effective January 1, 2024:
 - Retail marijuana sales.
- Certain provisions of the bill do not become effective unless reenacted by the 2022 Session of the General Assembly.

SB 1335 / HB 1846 License restrictions for minors; use of handheld personal communication devices

- Eliminates the provision prohibiting someone with a provisional driver's license/learner's permit to operate a vehicle while using a wireless communication device.
- Under a different current law, all drivers, including those with a provisional driver's license/learner's permit, are prohibited from holding a personal communications device while operating a vehicle.
- *In essence, this makes those with a provisional license subject to the same law as everyone else that became effective January 1, 2021.*

HB 1918 Student driver safety

- Requires:
 - (i) driver education programs to include instruction on the dangers of distracted driving and speeding and
 - (ii) a student to submit a standard application form developed by the Department of Education by which the student provides evidence that he possesses a valid driver's license or driver privilege card before being issued a pass to park a vehicle on high school property.

HB 2262 Traffic regulation; bicycles

- Requires the driver of a motor vehicle to change lanes when overtaking a bicycle when the lane of travel is not wide enough to pass at least three feet to the left of the overtaken vehicle.
- Removes the limitations on riding bicycles and certain other vehicles two abreast.

SB 1336 Restricted permits to operate a motor vehicle; ignition interlock systems.

- In any criminal case for reckless or improper driving where a defendant's license to operate a motor vehicle is subject to revocation or suspension and the court orders a defendant to enter into and successfully complete an alcohol safety action program, the court may issue the defendant a restricted license where the only restriction is to prohibit the defendant from operating a motor vehicle that is not equipped with a functioning, certified ignition interlock system for a period of not less than six consecutive months without alcohol-related violations of the interlock requirements.

HB 1903 Local government authority; reduction of speed limits.

- Authorizes local governing bodies to reduce the speed limit to less than 25 miles per hour, but not less than 15 miles per hour, in a business district or residence district.

HB 2119 Student driver education program; parent participation exemption.

- Exempts students from the requirement to participate in the parent/student component of a school's driver education program who are
 - (i) at least 18 years old,
 - (ii) emancipated minors, or
 - (iii) unaccompanied minors who are not in the physical custody of their parent or guardian.

Commercial Motor Vehicle LAW CHANGE:

HB1850: Grants vehicles powered by electric batteries an addt 2,000lbs.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 46.2-1129.2 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 46.2-1129.2. Further extension of weight limits for vehicles fueled by natural gas or powered by means of electric battery power.

A. On any highway other than an interstate highway, any motor vehicle that is fueled, wholly or partially, by natural gas *or powered primarily by means of electric battery power* shall be allowed up to an additional 2,000 pounds total in gross, single axle, tandem axle, or bridge formula weight limits.

To be eligible for this exception, the operator of the vehicle must be able to demonstrate that the vehicle is a natural gas vehicle, a bi-fuel vehicle using natural gas, ~~or~~ a vehicle that has been converted to a natural gas vehicle, *or a vehicle that is powered primarily by means of electric battery power.*

B. On an interstate highway, any motor vehicle that is fueled primarily by natural gas *or powered primarily by means of electric battery power* may exceed the weight limits provided in § ~~46.2-1127~~ *by an amount equal to the difference between (i) the weight of the vehicle attributable to the natural gas tank and fueling system carried by that vehicle and (ii) the weight of a comparable diesel fuel tank and fueling system by up to an additional 2,000 pounds.* However, the gross weight of such vehicle shall not exceed 82,000 pounds.



Nearly 15% of Virginia drivers do not wear their seat belts. In the U.S. overall, 11.5% of drivers do not buckle-up as determined by the National Occupant Protection Use Survey (NOPUS).

Nationally, Seat belt use continued to be lower for males (87.7%) than females (92.0%) in 2018.

In 2018, seat belt use continued to be lower among 16- to 24-year-olds (87.6%) than other age groups.

NHTSA has estimated that, when used, lap/shoulder seat belts reduce the risk of fatal injury to front-seat passenger car occupants by 45 percent and the risk of moderate-to-critical injury by 50 percent.

Lap/shoulder belts should always be used, even in vehicles with air bags.

<https://www.drivesmartva.org/current-projects/buckle-up-live-on/>

AMAZON SMILE SINCE 2014...



Your current charity
Drive Safe Hampton Roads, Inc.
has received

\$341.39
as of May 2021

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS...



Get It Together High School Seat Belt Challenge

Fall 2021-2022 Community Liaisons are needed for the 2021-22 GIT Challenge. Stake your claim to volunteer at your preferred school.

Get It Together (GIT) Subcommittee Chair

DSHR is looking for a person to take over this legacy program. Right now, there is a group of people working together to cover all the bases, but a specific chair is needed. The GIT Challenge kicks off in October, but the committee is already getting together to plan.

DMV SHARES INFO ON MOTORCYCLES

Did you know that in 2019, there were 89 motorcyclists killed in traffic crashes, an increase from 2018 (88). Those deaths accounted for 11% of the total highway fatalities that year. In 2020, there were 87 motorcyclists killed in traffic crashes, a decrease from 2019 (89). Those deaths accounted for 10% of the total highway fatalities that year. It's especially important for motorists to understand the safety challenges faced by motorcyclists, such as size and visibility, and motorcycle riding practices like downshifting and weaving to know how to anticipate and respond to them. By raising motorists' awareness, both drivers and riders will be safer sharing the road.

Some tips for vehicle drivers:

- If you are turning at an intersection and your view of oncoming traffic is partially obstructed, wait until you can see around the obstruction, sufficiently scan for all roadway users (pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorcyclists alike), and proceed with caution. Slow your decision-making process down at intersections.
- One's reaction time and ability to assess and respond to a potential collision, such as a lane change, is significantly hindered if there are large differences in speed among vehicles in traffic. When approaching a congested roadway, being diligent in modifying your speed to match that of the cars in traffic can be a lifesaver, particularly for motorcyclists.
- Allow a motorcyclist a full lane width. Though it may seem as if there is enough room in a single lane for a motor vehicle and a motorcycle, looks can be deceiving. Share the road, but not the lane: A motorcyclist needs room to maneuver safely.
- Because motorcycles are smaller than most vehicles, they can be difficult to see. Their size can also cause other drivers to misjudge their speed and distance.
- Size also counts against motorcycles when it comes to blind spots. Motorcyclists can be easily hidden in a vehicle's blind spot. Always look for motorcycles by checking your mirrors and blind spots before switching to another lane of traffic.
- Always signal your intentions before changing lanes or merging with traffic. This allows motorcyclists to anticipate your movement and find a safe lane position.
- Do not be fooled by a flashing turn signal on a motorcycle — it may not be self-canceling and the motorcyclist may have forgotten to turn it off. Wait to be sure the rider is going to turn before you proceed.
- Allow more follow distance — three or four seconds — when following a motorcycle; this gives the motorcycle rider more time to maneuver or stop in an emergency. Motorcycle riders may suddenly need to change speed or adjust their lane position to avoid hazards such as potholes, gravel, wet or slippery surfaces, pavement seams, railroad crossings, and grooved pavement.

Link to the DMV motorcycle video: <https://youtu.be/Zf0-LDIYz68>



SAVE THE DATE!

2021
VIRGINIA
HIGHWAY SAFETY VIRTUAL SUMMIT
JULY 13-21

VIRGINIA
HIGHWAY SAFETY
VIRTUAL SUMMIT
2021

The Department of Motor Vehicles will host its annual Highway Safety Summit virtually through a series of webinars July 13-21. The theme is "2021: Moving Forward Together."

The virtual summit will feature sessions that focus on current highway safety issues to continue our efforts to decrease the number of crashes, injuries and fatalities on our roadways. Speakers from the national, state and local level will talk about a variety of topics.

We invite highway safety stakeholders from law enforcement, state agencies, non-profits, institutes of higher education, as well as other highway safety advocates to attend. You will receive instructions on how to register in coming weeks.






FREE EVENT



FREE EVENT

“Cruise-In and Curls for Chris”

- What:** Check out great classic cars and enjoy fun events to promote safe driving over the 2021 July 4th holiday weekend. Submit a bid during the silent auction, see how many curls you can ‘Curl for Chris’ with Ironbound Gym, and listen to some great live music by Lane Rice & Co. 
- When:** Saturday, July 3, 2021, 10 am until 12 noon 
- Where:** New Town Shops in Williamsburg in the Regal Cinema parking lot. Physical Address: 4911 Courthouse Street, Williamsburg, VA 23188 
- Who:** Cruise-In and Curls in memory of Christopher Lee King, 4/1/02-7/4/20, who died in a car crash shortly after graduating from high school. Over this past year, Chris’ family has been working tirelessly to help prevent other families from having to experience this profound loss and to support Chris’ memory.
- Why:** All proceeds benefit Drive Safe Hampton Roads, a local non-profit organization working to provide the life-saving programs and information for teen drivers and their families. Partners in this event will be sharing tips, information and education to prevent these horrible tragedies.

After the event, be sure to stop by the local New Town businesses...catch a Regal movie, enjoy Blaze Pizza, have a taste of Sweet Frog Frozen Yogurt, or visit one of the many other businesses who have donated a portion of sales in memory of Chris King.



Sponsors include Blaze Pizza, Ironbound Gym, Patriot Driving School, Crosswalk Church, Sweet Frog Frozen Yogurt, VFW Post 6364 Richmond, Stensland Dental Studio, Teresa Evans (Coldwell Banker), and Paul’s Deli. Additional support provided by the James City County Police Department, Virginia Peninsula Car Club Council, DRIVE SMART Virginia, Regal Cinemas, Pepsico, and Drive Safe Hampton Roads.

Don’t forget to BUCKLE UP!
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:
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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.



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

