



Car Crashes- the biggest killer of youth

Whether it's prom, Cinco de Mayo, or a Graduation Party - **DRIVE RIGHT!** Don't drink alcohol or use any other substances that will compromise your ability to make good decisions. Driving is a complex skill-take it seriously. People are depending on you.

It's easy to take driving for granted because it's so common. But driving is complicated. You need good vision and brain-eye-hand coordination. You also need the ability to divide your attention between several things. Plus, you need to know traffic rules and be able to make good, quick decisions. A car is a powerful machine. Misused,

ALERT!!!! BOOSTER SEAT LAW CHANGES TO 4'9" ON JULY 1, 2005

The T.C.A. 55-9-602 child passenger restraint systems law has been amended and approved by both the House and Senate and is expected to be signed by the Governor with changes in effect July 1, 2005. The new law lowers minimum height requirement to less than four feet, nine inches (4'9") from present less than five feet, which triggers the proper use of child restraint system for children ages four through eight.

it can cause a lot of damage. Every time you get behind that wheel, you take your safety and the safety of others into your hands. Poor driving skills and bad decisions can have disastrous results. You have a responsibility to drive well. So get to your destination and back home safely — don't drink & drive or you will lose. ■

Don't be a Missile

Safety belts are your best bet in a car crash. **PERIOD.** They keep you in your seat-and in the car. That means your face, head and chest are less likely to slam into things like the steering wheel or windshield. And your body won't turn into a missile, slamming into other passengers, the car, or the pavement and other vehicles, if you get thrown out of the car. Buckle up Tennessee, it's the law! ■



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Merge Left New Work Zone Safety Campaign Begins

The Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) in cooperation with the Department of Safety recently announced details of a new program designed to improve traffic flow and safety in many of Tennessee's new highway and interstate work zones. The program is called Merge Left.

Many new work zone projects will be designed to have motorists flow to the left. It's a simple concept and one that officials believe will save lives and help relieve construction related backups. TDOT's new Merge Left projects will get underway in the next few months.

Here's how Merge Left works:

1. At the very first highway sign advising of upcoming work zone, begin merging to the left lane as quickly as possible. Do not try to gain position by speeding ahead in the right lane.
2. Get in single file with all other



vehicles in the left lane.

3. Stay in single file until you are through the work zone.
4. Begin to merge back into all traffic lanes.

It's that simple. So remember, **Merge Left and Merge Early.** ■

GHSO Holds Multi-Cultural Event At Toys R Us in Clarksville

On Saturday, February 26 what started as a safety seat demonstration event by GHSO's Minority Outreach Manager, Sabrina Scrivens-Carter and Middle Tennessee's Law Enforcement Liaison Jerry Tucker soon became a safety seat inspection at the Toys R Us in Clarksville for a diverse community of African Americans, Hispanic Americans and Asian Americans. In order to handle what had now become a safety seat inspection, Carter and Tucker, who are also Child Passenger Safety Technicians, were joined by other local technicians-Steve Heise and Sam Birdlong from Montgomery

(Continued next page)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

TENNESSEE LIFESAVER CONFERENCE
FRIDAY, AUGUST 26, 2005
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

Check our website
www.tntrafficsafety.org,
for additional information.

County Sheriff's Department and Officer Dill with Clarksville Police Department. Toys R Us donated child restraint seats, booster seats and other supplies for the technicians to use should they need to replace seats or provide a seat to those who couldn't afford to purchase seats and they also offered a discount to those who could afford to purchase them.

On Sunday, the 27th, the activities were held inside due to the weather. The CPS technicians performed demonstrations, answered questions and handed out the latest TN Child Passenger law literature. As a result of this positive experience, GHSO has been invited to plan a much larger in May for the community. And, this may be the start of collaboration with Toys R Us stores across the state to help "save lives". For more information on multi-cultural activities, contact Sabrina Carter at 615.253.5519. ■

LEL REPORT

*By Kelly Abercrombie,
GHSO East TN LEL*

The East Tennessee district of the Governor's Highway Safety Office LEL program is a very exciting place to be this spring. We are gearing up for four separate "Hands Across the Border Checkpoints" and several other press or special events.

The East Tennessee agencies have also been working hard to reduce traffic crashes and traffic related injuries. Here are what some of the agencies are doing:

- Blount County Sheriff's office



Toys R Us Coordinator Gina Impoco with LEL Jerry Tucker, and GHSO Manager Sabrina Carter at the Clarksville Toys-R-Us

has conducted a minimum of one DUI checkpoint per month for the last several months and has had great success in their efforts.

- Mount Carmel Police Department has held several checkpoints in conjunction with other agencies in their area with great results as well.
- Officer Jerry Hughes, East Tennessee State University Police, leads the N.E.T.T.S. traffic network and has been instrumental in having local businesses voluntarily post safety messages for us. These messages contain the "Booze It and Lose It" and "Click It or Ticket" tag lines as well as many other traffic safety related items.
- The Sevierville Police Department is hosting a community safety-day on April 30th, which will include many different public safety agencies.

Nearly all of the agencies are preparing to participate in the first

ever Tennessee Law Enforcement Challenge Program, which will highlight all of their efforts for the past year. In addition, most of the agencies are planning special events at local high schools and conducting safety campaigns.

The Rutledge High School designated an entire month to traffic safety for its students. The month-long event incorporated classroom lectures from public safety and health officials as well as displaying a vehicle that was involved in a DUI accident in front of the school.

While this is a brief overview of efforts being made by the East Tennessee law enforcement agencies, many other efforts are being conducted every day. Simply said, the law enforcement in East Tennessee takes the safety of its motoring public very seriously and they work very hard to improve traffic safety.

For more information on the GHSO East Tennessee LEL program, call 423.421.3443. ■

GHSO Training 2005 Calendar: Cookeville, Knoxville, Kingsport

COOKEVILLE MAY 9-13

- Officer Spanish Communication I & II
- Standardized Child Passenger Safety Training
- Electronic Traffic Crash Reporting

COOKEVILLE MAY 16-20

- Standardized Field Sobriety Testing
Training/Protecting Lives, Saving Futures
- Introduction to Child Passenger Safety
- Child Passenger Safety Re-Cert. Workshop
- Moving Kids Safely in Child Care
- Child Passenger Safety Training for School Buses
- Cops in Court

KNOXVILLE JUNE 13-17

- Officer Spanish Communication I & II
- Standardized Field Sobriety Testing Instructor
- Standardized Child Passenger Safety Training
- Electronic Traffic Crash Reporting
- Traffic Crash Reconstruction
- Safe and Legal Traffic Stops

KNOXVILLE JUNE 20-24

- Officer Spanish Communication III
- Child Passenger Safety Re-Certification
Workshop
- In-Car Videotaping User Training for DUI
Enforcement and Prosecution

- Introduction to Child Passenger Safety
- Moving Kids Safely in Child Care
- Child Passenger Safety Training for School Buses
- Standardized Field Sobriety Testing Training /
Protecting Lives, Saving Futures
- Traffic Crash Reconstruction
- Cops in Court

KINGSPOINT JULY 11-15

- Officer Spanish Communication I & II
- Standardized Child Passenger Safety Training
- Electronic Traffic Crash Reporting

KINGSPOINT JULY 18-22

- Standardized Field Sobriety Testing
Training/Protecting Lives, Saving Futures
- Child Passenger Safety Re-Certification Workshop
- Safe Transportation of Children with Special Needs
- Introduction to Child Passenger Safety
- Cops in Court

Note: For correct dates and times of the 2005 GHSO Training schedule, please visit the Tennessee Traffic Safety Resource Service Website at:

www.tntrafficsafety.org



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