

# reporter

February - May 08



## ***BUZZED DRIVING IS DRUNK DRIVING*** Don't Let This Fourth of July Blow Up in Your Face

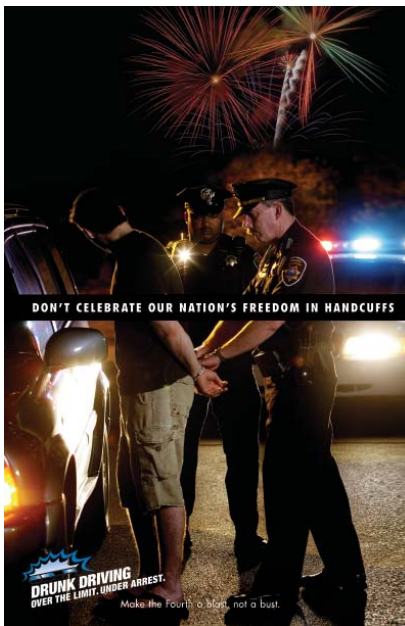
**T**oo many people still don't understand that alcohol, drugs and driving just don't mix. Impaired driving is no accident—nor is it a victimless crime.

Drunk driving is one of America's deadliest problems. In 2006, 42,642 people were killed in motor vehicle crashes. There were 13,470 people who were killed in traffic crashes that involved at least one driver or motorcyclists with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .08 or higher.

Alcohol also plays a big role in motorcycle fatalities. Forty-one percent of the 2,007 motorcyclists who died in single-vehicle crashes in 2006 had BAC levels of .08 or higher. In fatal crashes for 2006 a higher percentage of motorcyclists had BAC levels of .08 or higher than any other type of vehicle driver.

Following these easy steps, a driver can enjoy a safe and festive holiday without jeopardizing their life and the lives of others who may be on the road.

- Plan a safe way home before the festivities begin;
- Before drinking, please designate a sober driver and give that person your keys;



- If you're impaired, use a taxi, call a sober friend or family member, or use public transportation so you are sure to get home safely;
- Use your community's Sober Rides program;
- If you happen to see a drunk driver on the road, don't hesitate to contact your local law enforcement;

- And remember, *Friends Don't Let Friends Drive Drunk*. If you know someone who is about to drive impaired, take their keys and help them make other arrangements to get to where they are going safely.

Driving impaired is simply not worth the risk. The consequences are serious and real. Not only do you risk killing yourself or someone else, but the trauma and financial costs of a crash or an arrest for driving while impaired can be significant. Violators often face jail time, the loss of their driver's license, higher insurance rates, and dozens of other unanticipated expenses.

This summer, don't let your Fourth of July end in an arrest—or even worse, death. Make smart decisions. Plan ahead, so you can assure a safe way home. Whether you've had way too many or just one too many, it's not worth the risk. Remember, *Buzzed Driving Is Drunk Driving*. Designate your sober driver before the parties begin.

For more information, please visit <http://www.tntrafficsafety.org> or <http://www.StopImpairedDriving.org>.



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# Tri-State Law Enforcement- Kick-Off Summer Driving Programs



The mercury is rising and so are the numbers of vehicles hitting the road.

The Governor's Highway Safety Office is working with law enforcement in Northeast Tennessee, Southwest Virginia and Western North Carolina to make every state safe on the roads. The traffic enforcers met Tuesday at the Tennessee Highway Patrol, District Five office in Fall Branch.

Washington County Tennessee Sheriff Ed Graybeal announced the kick-off today in a news release.

"Regular seatbelt usage is the single most effective way to protect people and reduce fatalities," said Sheriff Graybeal.

The safety officials added, 77% of the passenger vehicle occupants in a serious crash who were buckled up, survived the crash back in 2005.

A properly worn seatbelt can reduce the risk of fatal injuries to front seat passengers by 45% and by 60% in pick-up trucks, SUV's and mini-vans.

Safety officials say the following are some of the region's most successful driver safety programs.

- Click It or Ticket
- 100 Days of Summer Heat
- Buckle Up In Your Truck
- Hands Across The Border

The "Click It or Ticket" program officially ran Monday May 19th and through June 1st. 🚒

*Nick Mayo, TriCities.com*

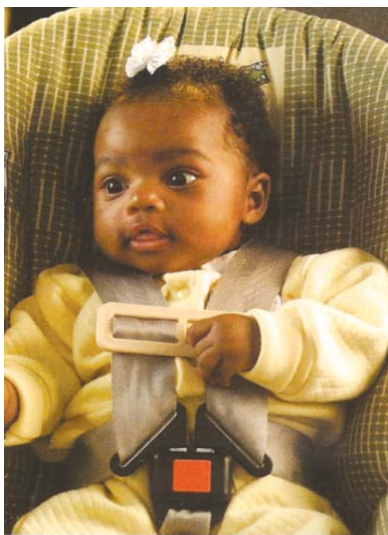


## 2008 TN Legislative Changes

- **DUI/DWI Offenses – SB2623/ HB2597** – Deletes the present law requirement that a blood alcohol test or drug test must be administered within two (2) hours of a person's arrest or initial detention in order for the results of the test to be admissible in Court. [Amends TCA 55-10-406-(a) (1)]. This new law takes affect January 2009.
- **M- Limited Driver Licenses – SB3159/HB2994** – Eliminates issuance of M-limited licenses, which presently allows minors between 14 and 16 to operate motor-driven cycles or motorized bicycles. Amendment # 1 to TCA 55-50 rewrites this bill and revises the present law provision for an M-limited license so that a minor has to be at least 15, instead of 14, years of age to get the license. This new law takes affect July 1, 2008.
- **DUI/DWI Offenses – SB0359/ HB0831** - Authorizes court to order DUI offender to attend a victims impact panel program; requires attending to pay fee of between \$25.00 and \$50.00; clarifies provisions governing payment for drug and alcohol assessment and treatment ordered by court. - Amends TCA Title 55, Chapter 10, Part 4. (Before the change, DUI offenders younger than 21 had to spend at least 48 hours in jail; however, with the new law all individuals convicted of drunken driving will have to serve at least 48 hours in jail). This law takes affect July 1, 2008. 📌



## CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY Q & A



### Q: When is it OK to switch a child to a front facing car seat?

A: Babies should ride in rear-facing car seats until they are 1 year and 20 pounds (TN Code 55-9-602). The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) explains below:

"The unique features of an infant's body and the biomechanics of injury make both components necessary", explains Dr. Dennis Durbin, a pediatrician and spokesman for AAP.

Babies have large heads, weak necks and undeveloped spines, so they're more likely to suffer injuries in a car accident. Rear-facing car seats help spread the force of a crash more evenly. These seats also support the head, neck and spine against the back of the car seat. This helps keep them from whipping forward in the event of a collision.

### Q: What if my car only has lap belts in the back seat?

A: Lap belts work fine with infant-only, convertible, and forward-facing seats, however, they **cannot** be used with booster seats. If you car only has lap belts, use a forward-facing car safety with a harness and higher weight limits. Other options are

- Check to see if shoulder belts can be installed in your vehicle,
- Use a travel vest (some can be used with lap belts)
- Consider buying another car with lap and shoulder belts in the back seat.

For more information on Child Passenger Safety, visit us @ <http://www.tntrafficsafety.org> 📌

### TTSRS Website Bookmark Alert!

First, we want to thank you for your patience during our website construction.



Second, we understand many of you have had trouble getting to our site pages through your "Bookmarks". The reason for this is, TTSRS is under web construction and changes url addresses often.

The solution to this problem (for right now) is to bookmark the main TTSRS url which is <http://tntrafficsafety.org/> This way, you can then quickly get to where you need to go from the TTSRS home page.

If you need assistance, call us at 1.800.99.BELTS (2-3587). 📌

## GHSO Announces the "Lead & Live" Youth Conference November 7-9, 2008



Are you a leader on the basketball court or the student council? In the drama club or just around your friends? The "Lead & Live Youth Conference" from the

Tennessee Governor's Highway Safety Office is an event that can make you a leader in life-changing or even life-saving situations.

You'll meet teens from across Tennessee, make new friends and learn how to be a leader when it

really counts. You can change your life and the lives of your friends. We can show you how.

Please join us for the "Lead & Live Youth Conference," November 7-9 2008 at Paris Landing State Park. Lead by example. Take a stand. Your leadership can save lives.

Visit <http://www.tntrafficsafety.org> or call GHSO at 1.615.741.2589 for more information about the conference. 🚗

### GHSO 2008 Training

#### July

Radar Operator (Basic) Standardized Child Passenger Safety (CPS)  
Standardized CPS Recert  
Traffic Crash Reconstruction

#### August

Advanced Standardized Field Sobriety Testing  
Advanced Traffic Crash Investigation  
Officer Spanish Communication (Enhanced)  
Standardized Child Passenger Safety (CPS)

#### September

Officer Spanish Communication (Enhanced)  
Radar and LIDAR Instructor  
Standardized CPS Recert  
Standardized Field Sobriety Testing

#### October

Advanced Standardized Field Sobriety Testing

#### November

Standardized Field Sobriety Testing

Visit <http://tntrafficsafety.org> for more information on these and other GHSO training classes. Remember, you must register online for all classes.

# TENNESSEE TRAFFIC SAFETY reporter

TTSRS Director  
Karen Simerly

Graphic Designer  
Lorna Keathley

ITS Specialist  
Curtis Kraehmer



## Tennessee Traffic Safety Resource Service

309 Conference Center Bldg.  
Knoxville, TN 37996-4133

Office: 1.800.99BELTS (TN Only)

Web: [www.tntrafficsafety.org](http://www.tntrafficsafety.org)

Fax: 865-974-3889

Governor's Highway Safety Office  
James K. Polk Office Bldg.  
505 Deaderick Street, 18th Floor  
Nashville, TN 37243  
Office: 615-741-2589

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Center for Transportation Research  
The University of Tennessee  
309 Conference Center Bldg.  
Knoxville, TN 37996-4133

1.800.99BELTS

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Will just one more  
be one too many?  
Don't let July 4th blow up in your face.  
*Buzzed Driving is Drunk Driving*