

Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over

The 2013 national [Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over](#) enforcement campaign kicked off Aug. 16 and runs through Labor Day weekend. Officers are looking for motorists and motorcyclists impaired by drugs or alcohol. Those caught will be arrested.

Click [here](#) for an impaired driving fact sheet and information on DUI arrests.



Officer Melissa Dillon with the Paducah Police Department was the overall winner with 1,303 seat belt and booster seat citations.

Law enforcement officers, agencies honored for seat belt and child restraint enforcement

The Kentucky Office of Highway Safety (KOHS) recently honored 140 law enforcement officers from 123 agencies across the Commonwealth for their efforts to increase the use of seat belts and child restraints.

The third annual Governor's Occupant Protection Awards ceremony was Aug. 5 at the Marriott Downtown Louisville. The ceremony kicked off the [2013 Kentucky Lifesavers Conference](#).

Awards were presented to officers with the most occupant protection citations in each agency and division. There are six divisions, broken

down according to the number of officers within the agency, plus a division for [Kentucky State Police](#).

"Our law enforcement is making a difference. Kentucky's seat belt usage rate increased by 1.5 percentage points in 2012 to 83.7 percent from 82.2 percent in 2011," said KOHS Director Bill Bell, who presented the awards. "However, there is still a great deal of work to be done. One fatality is too many."

View a list of the [individual winners](#), [division winners](#) and [photos](#) from the ceremony.

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Director's Message — Bill Bell



Kentucky's 2013 Lifesavers Conference is a success

It is a little over a week past the closing of [Lifesavers](#), and I can say I'm now fully recovered. No, I didn't spend too much time at 4th Street Live, but gave a lot of attention and preparation to this great event. Some other words I can use to describe this year's conference: meaningful, busy, multi-faceted, full, collaborative and emotional.

From our first speaker, [Secretary Mike Hancock](#), to our last speaker, [Mr. Harold Dennis](#) (Carrollton bus crash survivor), and every speaker and presenter in between, it was compelling. We had the usual Child Passenger Safety classes as well as breakout sessions covering the 4 E's – Engineering, Education, Enforcement and Emergency Response.

The Emergency Response sessions included the kick-off of the new [SHRP2](#) (strategic highway research program – 2nd generation) traffic incident management courses. Twenty-five responders received formal credit for their attendance and participation. An additional 98 were trained in the days following Lifesavers.

Another first was our Commercial Vehicle Safety Forum. This concept grew from a conversation with Mr. Ken Sheridan, safety director [LG&E-KU](#). The KOHS does several programs with LG&E-KU and its industry partners, so we decided to bring together [Kentucky Motor Transport Association](#), [Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration](#), [Commercial Vehicle Enforcement](#) and [Kentucky Injury Prevention and Research Center](#). We hope to make this a regular session in the future and offer commercial vehicle educational credits.

Let's get back to the adjectives for the conference. I mentioned "emotional" for a description - and it was. We had some of the most passionate speakers I have ever heard talking to an already passionate audience. I hate to point out highlights because to me the whole conference was one big highlight. Or, maybe it was a beacon. I say this because we drew speakers from Atlanta, GA; Nashville, TN; Alexandria, VA; Sacramento, CA, and a few other cities and states.

On Monday, [California Highway Patrol Commissioner Joe Farrow](#) thanked and reminded all of the law enforcement personnel how important their jobs are to the Commonwealth and how Kentucky is setting the example in many areas.

Also, we found out from [Mary Ellen Wiederwohl, Mayor Fischer's Deputy Chief of Staff](#), that Louisville was not only voted one of the "foodiest" cities in the country but also the manliest city in the country. [KSP Commissioner Rodney Brewer](#), Secretary Mike Hancock and I appreciated the acknowledgement.

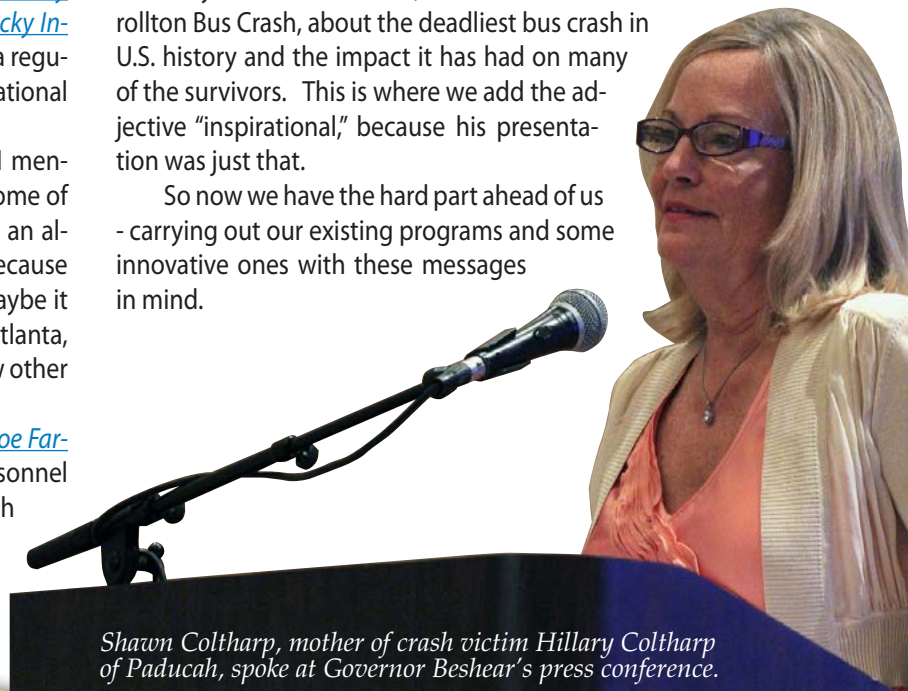
Secretary Hancock reiterated that the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) does everything with safety in mind and we will attack distracted driving head on.

At our Awards Luncheon on Tuesday, we had an "A" list of speakers, including Commissioner Brewer; [Bill and Muriel Elliott](#), talking about the [HERO Campaign](#); [Governor's Highway Safety Association Chairman Kendell Poole](#) and [UK Women's basketball coach Matthew Mitchell](#). They all spoke passionately about teamwork and perseverance.

Finally, our last general session was happily pre-empted by [Governor Steve Beshear](#), who announced plans to have the KYTC [add texting while driving to the list of traffic offenses](#) for which "points" can be assessed against a driver's license. Ms. Shawn Coltharp, [mother of crash victim Hillary Coltharp](#), voiced her belief that "this measure will save more lives on our highways."

We ended Lifesavers with ["Impact: After the Crash"](#) - a presentation by Mr. Harold Dennis, survivor of the 1988 Carrollton Bus Crash, about the deadliest bus crash in U.S. history and the impact it has had on many of the survivors. This is where we add the adjective "inspirational," because his presentation was just that.

So now we have the hard part ahead of us - carrying out our existing programs and some innovative ones with these messages in mind.



Shawn Coltharp, mother of crash victim Hillary Coltharp of Paducah, spoke at Governor Beshear's press conference.

SafetySpotlight

Sharon Rengers



Sharon Rengers, a registered nurse at [Kosair Children's Hospital](#), has dedicated 37 years of nursing experience to helping decrease injuries and deaths to Kentucky's children.

Rengers manages the child passenger safety program at Kosair and has worked extensively with KOHS for the last 14 years. As a nationally certified [child passenger safety technician](#) instructor, she has taught more than 140 certification and recertification classes, numerous continuing education classes and hosted hundreds of car seat clinics throughout the state.

Rengers is also the state's expert in properly securing [children with special needs](#) and properly securing [children on school buses](#). She also manages the Kosair Children's Safety City Program in Louisville at Bates Elementary School. She is an active member of [Safe Kids Kentucky](#) and Safe Kids [Louisville Coalition](#).

Did you know?

The American Academy of Pediatrics makes the following [recommendations](#):

Most children need to ride in a belt-positioning booster seat until they have reached 4 feet 9 inches tall and are between 8 and 12 years of age.

Keep a child rear-facing until at least 2 years old, or until they reach the maximum height and weight for their seat.

Although the Federal Aviation Administration permits children under age 2 to ride on an adult's lap on an airplane, they are best protected by riding in an age- and size-appropriate restraint.

Children should ride in the rear of a vehicle until they are 13 years old.

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SURVEY

Two Kentucky counties selected for national alcohol and drugged driving survey

Harlan and Letcher counties were selected as two of the 60 site locations for the 2013 [National Roadside Survey \(NRS\) of Alcohol and Drugged Driving](#) conducted by the [National Highway Traffic Safety Administration](#).

Data collected will help estimate the prevalence of alcohol and drugged driving in the United States and aid in program and policy development.

A data collection team of nine researchers worked with the sheriff offices in [Harlan](#) and [Letcher](#) counties on the voluntary survey.

Deputies stopped randomly selected motorists and after their consent and assurance that the results were confidential, drivers were led to a data collection site.

Each participant was asked to give a breath test, oral fluid and blood samples, and complete a survey with questions pertaining to

drug and alcohol use, driving habits and demographics. Participants could earn up to \$60 if they participated in all parts of the survey. Passengers could also complete a survey for a \$5 incentive fee.

A minimum of 7,500 participants will be recruited for this study. The results will be made public in 2014.



Your Letters

I had a flat tire on my boat trailer at mile point 32 on I-65 northbound. I called the Safe Patrol and Mr. Mike Rich arrived about 25 minutes later and changed my flat. I just want to let you know Mr. Rich is an excellent employee and did an outstanding job. The Safe Patrol is a valuable service to the traveling public.

Kenneth W. Cox



Event Calendar

An up-to-date and detailed listing will be on our [Events Facebook page](#)

Did you know?

Hands-free devices are mentally distracting to drivers

According to a [study](#) by the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety, [the use of hands-free devices](#) behind the wheel is mentally distracting. NHTSA believes [more research is needed](#) before government imposes regulations.

Video highlights importance of incident responder training

With incidents causing 25 percent of all traffic delays, [this video](#), produced in cooperation with the [International Association of Chiefs of Police](#) and the [Federal Highway Administration](#), highlights the importance of [Traffic Incident Management Responder Training](#).

Are you ready for a thumb war?

[The Thumb War campaign](#), created by DoSomething.org, encourages teens to stop their peers from texting while driving.

BHSI challenges magazine article

An article focusing on helmets, titled ["Senseless,"](#) in [Bicycling](#) magazine raised concerns from the [Bicycle Helmet Safety Institute](#).

Keys2Drive provides resource for parents of teen drivers

[Keys2Drive](#) is a comprehensive, state-specific resource for parents and teens to help with the learning-to-drive process.

Campaign highlights dangers of distracted driving at intersections

The [National Coalition for Safer Roads](#) and [FocusDriven](#) launched a joint campaign effort, [Stop Distraction on Red](#), to highlight the dangers of distracted driving and red-light running.

Contact Us

Kentucky
Transportation
Cabinet



Kentucky Office of Highway Safety

200 Mero St., 4th floor
Frankfort, KY 40622

502-564-1438 or 1-888-374-8768

highwaysafety@ky.gov

Editor: Erin Eggen—
erin.eggen@ky.gov

Designer: Dawn Morrow—
dawn.morrow@ky.gov

Cooperative Agencies



U.S. Department
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Administration

