



SAFE Patrol Operator Sean Osborne receives a Highway Safety Ambassador Certificate from KOHS Director Bill Bell (left) and Transportation Secretary Mike Hancock (right).

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## SAFE Patrol Operator rewarded for life-saving efforts

"If you drive enough miles a day, you're bound to see something happen. No doubt about it," said Safety Assistance for Freeway Emergencies (SAFE) Patrol Operator Sean Osborne. For motorists traveling in and around Jefferson County, there's no doubt they are lucky to have Osborne monitoring the roadways.

On the evening of May 2, Osborne was traveling Interstate 71 when he saw a car pull onto the shoulder. The following is an excerpt of a letter our office received describing the incident:

*I was traveling with my 74-year-old mother-in-law when I began to not feel well. I pulled over and Sean pulled up behind me. I told him I'd be OK, but thankfully he stayed because I had a heart attack and quit breathing. My heart stopped, but Sean knew what to do and had my heart beating again before the ambulance got to us. I can say he is my hero and lifesaver. Not only did he take care of me, but he was able to help calm my mother-in-law as well. Thank you, Sean, for being so nice and professional, and thank you, Kentucky, for having people like Sean on the roads. The doctors said I should be OK and I'm feeling much better. My family and I are grateful to Sean for being there and saving my life. God Bless.*

-Robert

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# Director's Message

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— Bill Bell



## It's halftime in Kentucky, so how are we going to finish the game?

The 2011-2012 school year was great for college sports in Kentucky. We all know what happened in basketball, but two Division I schools also did well in baseball and several other sports.

But, going back to early Fall 2011, our D-1 football schools were struggling. Western Kentucky University, University of Kentucky and University of Louisville had some disappointing and even surprising losses. However, each school found the heart to come up with some big wins and salvage their respective seasons. WKU was snubbed by the bowls but was definitely worthy of postseason play. Louisville was in a rebuilding year and still managed to make it to a bowl. And, last but not least, Kentucky broke a 26-year losing streak to arch-rival Tennessee in the last game of the season.

Even though UK did not have a winning season, I would submit that all the D-1 football schools had a successful 2011. You just have to consider how they started their seasons and the adversities each school faced.

Comparatively, highway safety in Kentucky also had a rough start this year and now we are at halftime. The big difference is that we are talking about lives lost on our highways. Many reasons have been floated for the increase in fatalities this year. Some of these include lack of

winter weather, more motorcycles on the road and more motorists miles driven. These are all true. Someone recently told me, "We are not dwelling on the raw number increase in fatalities, but instead focusing on our agenda and programs." In other words, stay the course.

I will spare you the statistics, but all of us, as stakeholders for highway safety, need to not only set an example but work together to effect positive change. The Office of Highway Safety has many partners, such as [Kentucky State Police](#), [Kentuckians for Better Transportation](#), [Mothers Against Drunk Driving](#), and [Kentucky Safety and Prevention Alignment Network](#). We're always looking to add more, so we'd be happy to attend a meeting or event to collaborate and work to make a difference this year and many more years going forward.

So, how do you want to finish this year? What can your organization do to help decrease injuries and fatalities in your city, county or the state? How can we help?

Our newest partners, [The Afternoon Underdogs](#) on Clear Channel radio WKRD, have joined the fight. One of the hosts, Tony Vanetti, said, "We want to help save lives, period!"

I believe Kentuckians will answer the call.

# where's baby?

## Look before you lock.

*Dr. Susan Pollack, MD  
Kentucky Children's Hospital  
Kentucky State Safe Kids Coordinator*

Dr. Norman L. Collins Sr. knows the tragedy of a child dying after being left in a closed car on a hot day.

In May 2011, his 3-month-old grandson died from heat stroke after being left in a car, still buckled up in his car seat, with the windows rolled up on a 93-degree day. A miscommunication between the baby's father and another church member about who was taking the infant to the nursery led to the death.

Collins is using this personal tragedy to warn others about the dangers of hyperthermia after leaving children unattended in vehicles. He spoke at an event at Kosair

Children's Hospital on July 9, joining David Strickland, Administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), Sharon Rengers, RN, of Safe Kids Louisville-Jefferson County and Kosair Children's Hospital, and local EMS professionals to urge parents and caregivers to think, "Where's baby? Look before you lock."

Even on a mild day, temperatures inside a car can rise nearly 20 degrees in 10 minutes, and leaving a window slightly open has no effect. These conditions are especially dangerous for children, whose bodies heat up three to five times faster than an adult's.

Since 1998, more than 500 children nationwide and 15 children in Kentucky have died from heat stroke.

More than half the children who die from heat stroke are forgotten in a vehicle by a caring adult who became distracted. About 30 percent are left unsupervised and gain entry into unlocked vehicles, where they become trapped and are overcome by heat.

Another 17 percent of deaths are caused when caregivers intentionally



*NHTSA Administrator David Strickland spoke at the "Where's Baby?" press conference held in Louisville on July 9.*

leave children in the car, sometimes with plans to return promptly, not knowing how rapidly temperatures can increase inside the vehicle. All the children rescued last year from hot cars in Kentucky were left there intentionally.

Most cases of child hyperthermia occur between the months of May and October, with peaks in June, July and August.

### Helpful links

[U.S. Hyperthermia statistics](#)

[4 R Kids Sake](#)

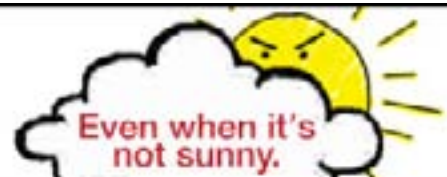
[Ray Ray's Pledge](#)

[NHTSA Where's Baby? campaign](#)

[Kentucky Injury Prevention and Research Center](#)

[Safe Kids USA](#)

**where's  baby?**  
Look before you lock.





National Safe Kids urges all adults who transport children to take the following steps:

- Call 911 immediately if you see a child unattended in a vehicle.
- Never leave children younger than 8, older children with mental or physical disabilities that might make them unable to get out of a car alone, or elderly adults alone in a car.

- If you have a church community, set a congregational rule that children cannot be left alone in cars.
- Set your cell phone reminder to be sure you drop off your child at daycare.
- If you have a computer at work, set your calendar program to prompt, "Did you drop off at daycare today?" as soon as you arrive.
- Place a cell phone, PDA, purse, briefcase, gym bag or whatever is to be carried from the car on the floor in front of the child in a back seat. This forces the adult to open the back door and observe the child.
- Have a plan with your child care provider to call if your child does not arrive when expected (see [www.rayrayspledge.com](http://www.rayrayspledge.com) for information and examples).

- Keep keys and remote entry key fobs out of children's reach.
- Lock all vehicles at all times.
- Check cars and trunks first if a child goes missing.

The risk of injury or death when a child is left alone in a car is far too great to chance it. Take steps to make sure your child isn't accidentally forgotten in your car or in someone else's car. Remember - never leave your child alone in a vehicle.

For more information on preventing hyperthermia deaths, call Kentucky State Safe Kids at 859-323-6194 or visit [www.safekids.org/nlyca](http://www.safekids.org/nlyca).

## Seat belt law expansion: Fines now in effect for 15-passenger van occupants

As of July 12, 15-passenger van occupants are required to conform to Kentucky's car seat, booster seat and seat belt law ([KRS 189.125](http://KRS.189.125)). Day care centers, directors and providers are encouraged to attend a free two-hour training course, with child care credits, on safe transportation of children in day care vans using booster seats. Centers that transport children and are not affiliated with schools or Head Starts (who fall under different



regulations) are eligible to receive booster seats. For more information, email or call Melanie Tyner-Wilson, MS ([mtyner@uky.edu](mailto:mtyner@uky.edu), 859-323-6194), or Susan Pollack, MD ([shpoll@uky.edu](mailto:shpoll@uky.edu)), at the Kentucky Injury Prevention and Research Center.



**James Stone** was very courteous and very helpful! I appreciate his kindness and efficiency with helping us in our time of need. Thanks, Kentucky, for this service!

Your highway emergency service was of great assistance to me when my front tire blew. I had unloaded and was deciding what to do when **Gary Buchanan** pulled up. He promptly changed my tire and I was on my way. I am a 67-year-old woman and I was traveling alone. I hope this service continues to function.

This program has to be the best use of our tax money! It was a lifesaver as my three kids and I were stranded. The operator, **Randall Simmons**, was polite, helpful and informative. Thank you!

Thank you, thank you, thank you! These guys were great! I'm a 60-year-old USMC Vietnam vet and was stranded until **Robert Wilson and Leroy Carroll** came along. Great guys – very helpful.

I can honestly say **Mike Rich** was great. He was my angel. His service was excellent. He provided and helped my kids and me all he could. He was always polite and never disrespectful. We need more people like him on the road.

Our tire recently blew on our boat trailer on Interstate 65. **Leroy Carroll** stopped to help us and was very nice and concerned for our safety. He told us to remain in our vehicle, lock our doors and clearly explained the plan. He was very quick to get us back on the road. Great guy! Thanks, Leroy!

## SAFE at the Speedway

Eleven [SAFE Patrol operators](#) aided the Kentucky State Police at the Kentucky Speedway during the recent racing weekend to ensure an efficient flow of traffic. Operators responded to calls of disabled vehicles and assisted in quick clearance issues that occurred June 29 – July 1. Additionally, [Division of Incident Management](#) personnel manned a mobile operations center which enabled them to collect traffic pattern information and relay it to the KSP command post.



# SafetySpotlight ≡

## Meet our recent staff addition to the Kentucky Office of Highway Safety

Cindy Watts is a Financial Manager with the Grants Branch of the Kentucky Office of Highway Safety. She transferred from the Division of Purchases where she worked for two years. Prior to that, she worked for the Auditor of Public Accounts for three years. After graduating from Woodford County High School in 1999, Watts attended Midway College, where

she received a bachelor's degree in Business Administration and an associate degree in Computer Information Systems.

She lives in Versailles with her husband, Shane, and their 4-year-old twin sons, Brayden and Tyler. She can be contacted at 502-564-9900, ext. 3613 or [Cindy.Watts@ky.gov](mailto:Cindy.Watts@ky.gov).



▲ Cindy Watts

### Did you know?

#### No progress in reducing motorcyclist deaths

A study by the Governor's Highway Safety Association finds that no progress was made in reducing motorcyclist deaths in 2011, remaining at the same level as 2010. [Read more here.](#)

#### Young U.S. drivers know the risks, but text anyway

A survey by Consumer Reports shows most young American drivers agree that it is dangerous to text while driving, but nearly a third admit they do it anyway. [Read more here.](#)

#### Cool tips for summer trips

Hitting the road this summer? The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration provides [tips for safe summer travels](#). Also, check the [Daily Fuel Gauge Report](#) from AAA for average national, state and local prices for gasoline, diesel and E-85.

#### Teen driver distraction increases with each young passenger

A study from the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety, [Teen Driver Risk in Relation to Age and Number of Passengers](#), details how much the risk of a teen driver getting into a crash is affected by the number and age of his or her passengers. [Read more here.](#)

#### Parents must be role models behind the wheel

According to a survey by Ford Motor Company, parents believe they drive safely, but teens report observing risky driving behaviors. [Read more here.](#)

#### Congress extends transportation funds

Congress passed the surface transportation extension known as Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century, or MAP-21. The new law extends transportation funding for a host of programs until September 2014. [Read more here.](#)

#### Distracted pedestrians as dangerous as distracted drivers

The online [Journal of Injury Prevention](#) reports a tripling of the injury or death rate of pedestrians being hit by motor vehicles while distracted by technology, including headphones, cell phones and iPads. [Read more here.](#)



[Cont. from page 1.](#)

Each SAFE Operator is trained in CPR and first aid, but Osborne is also a certified paramedic. This was the first of three incidents in two months in which he had to call on those skills. He found and resuscitated an unconscious woman when he stopped to tag what he thought was an abandoned vehicle on Interstate 65 and aided another man having a heart attack on Interstate 75.

"Everybody says it seems to happen around me," Osborne said. "I'm just glad I'm in the right place at the right time."

To recognize his outstanding efforts, Transportation Secretary Mike Hancock and Office of Highway Safety Director Bill Bell recently presented Osborne with a Highway Safety Ambassador certificate.

"I don't expect any recognition because this is my job," Osborne said. "But, even if I wasn't working, I'd stop anyway."

The SAFE Patrol launched a pilot program in October 2004 and went statewide in August 2007. Click [here](#) for more information.



In an effort to raise awareness of traffic safety laws and encourage safe driving habits, the Office of Highway Safety partnered with state and local law enforcement on the "[Blue Lights Across the Bluegrass](#)" campaign throughout July. Motorists are reminded to buckle up, not speed, and not drive while impaired or distracted, because this summer, Kentucky is completely covered... with Blue Light Across the Bluegrass!

## Did you know?

### IIHS ease-of-use

#### LATCH study released

A study by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety shows that many automakers aren't paying attention to the key factors that make the Lower Anchors and Tethers for Children (LATCH) system work. [Click here](#) for the research paper, videos and more.

### Learn how to properly fit a bike helmet

Take the helmet fit test! It's as simple as eyes, ears and mouth. [Click here](#) for a flyer and watch an instructional video [here](#).

### Safety 1st issues voluntary recall

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and Dorell Juvenile Group issued a voluntary recall on certain Safety 1st rear-facing infant seats with bases that were improperly manufactured without the LATCH system. [Read more here.](#)

### Need your car seat checked?

View the [Safe Kids Kentucky website](#) for upcoming car seat events and permanent inspection stations. Nationally certified technicians will show how to properly use and install the seat.

### "Be Ready. Be Buckled." poster winners announced

[Click here](#) to view the winning entries of the 2012 annual "[Be Ready. Be Buckled.](#)" poster contest. The contest is open to children in kindergarten through sixth grade with relatives in the truck and bus industries.

### Child seat requirements change with 2014 rule

Parents of many children ages 3 and older, who should still be in child safety seats, will be warned not to use a federally required attachment system when a new rule takes effect in early 2014. [Read more here.](#)



# EventCalendar

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

## July 20 - 21

- Safety booth at WHAS11 Health and Fitness Expo in Louisville

## July 21

- Safety booth at Pikeville Hillbilly Christmas in July

## July 23

- Child seat technician recertification class at Cumberland Valley Area Development District in London

## July 24

- Safety booth at Sullivan University in Lexington

## July 25

- Safety booth at University of Louisville
- D2 simulator and safety booth at United Parcel Service in Louisville

## July 26

- Governor's Occupant Protection Enforcement Awards ceremony at the Hilton Hotel in Lexington

## July 27

- D2 simulator for safety conference at Clarion Hotel in Lexington

## Aug. 2

- D2 simulator at Grayson County Head Start in Leitchfield

## Aug. 7

- Rollover simulator and safety booth at Frankfort National Night Out

## Aug. 8

- Safety presentation at Williamsburg Independent School

## Aug. 9

- Child seat check with Madison County Safety Coalition at Eastside Baptist Church in Richmond
- D2 simulator at Columbia Gas Company in Winchester

## Aug. 16

- D2 simulator at St. Joseph Health Services in Elizabethtown

## Aug. 16 - 26

- Safety booth at [Kentucky State Fair](#)

## Aug. 21

- D2 simulator at Pikeville College
- Safety booth at Pine Mountain State Park in Pineville

## Aug. 23

- D2 simulator at Laurel Grocery in London

## Aug. 25

- Rollover simulator at Boone County Teens on Wheels
- Safety booth at Click It or Ticket Bluegrass High School Football Showcase in Louisville

## Aug. 28

- Rollover simulator at Gallatin County Middle School in Warsaw

## Aug. 29

- 3D simulator at Dow Corning Corporation in Carrollton



[Labor Day enforcement campaign Aug. 17 - Sept. 3](#)

## Kentucky

### Transportation Cabinet



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## Cooperative Agencies



U.S. Department of Transportation  
Federal Highway Administration

