

# THE **KOH**S Voice

Kentucky Office of Highway Safety

May 2013



Officers from Kentucky, West Virginia and Ohio are represented at the press conference in Gallipolis, OH.

Click It or Ticket is advertised on the outdoor billboard during the Louisville press conference at the KFC YUM! Center.

## 'Click It or Ticket' campaign to run through Memorial Day weekend

Motorists who refuse to wear their seat belts – beware.

The 2013 national [Click It or Ticket](#) Memorial Day seat belt enforcement mobilization kicked off May 20 and runs through Memorial Day weekend. The goal is to help save lives by cracking down on those who don't buckle up.

Despite data showing seat belts save lives and the implementation of a primary seat belt law, Kentucky's 83 percent seat belt usage rate lags behind the national rate of 86 percent. In fact, Kentucky's roadway fatalities increased last year, going from 721 deaths in 2011 to 746 in 2012. More than half of those killed in motor vehicles were not restrained.

The [Kentucky Office of Highway Safety \(KOHS\)](#) is supporting state and local law enforcement across the country in their efforts to strongly enforce seat belt laws around the clock.

The KOHS awarded more than \$96,800 in federal funds to 18 state and local police agencies across the Commonwealth to help bolster seat belt enforcement during the campaign. The funding is provided through the [National Highway Traffic Safety Administration \(NHTSA\)](#).

Press conferences are being held across the state to promote the campaign. [Click here](#) for a seat belt fact sheet.

Paducah Police Capt. Don Hodgson speaks at the press conference held at the Whitehaven Welcome Center.

Erika Glover with WYMT-TV interviews KSP Captain Blake Slone at the Hazard press conference.

Transportation Cabinet Secretary Mike Hancock speaks at the press conference in Florence.



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This man was "Saved by the Belt"

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# Director's Message

— Bill Bell



## Man credits police officer's ticket for being 'Saved by the Belt'

Josh Ilg, 26, of Alexandria, was recognized for being "Saved by the Belt" at the Click It or Ticket press conference at the AAA/Bob Sumerel office in Florence May 16. Ilg is an example of the success that comes with enforcing our seat belt law.

Ilg's story in his words:

*Last summer as I was leaving a friend's house, I passed a Cold Spring Police Officer sitting in the median of U.S. 27. I was going the speed limit and obeying the traffic laws, but soon noticed the officer was behind me. I quickly realized that I had forgotten to put on my seat belt. After pulling me over, the officer approached and said, "Sir, do you know why I stopped you today?" I replied, "Yes, sir. I was not wearing my seat belt." When he handed me the ticket he said, "Buckling a seat belt is easy to do and can possibly save your life. Things happen beyond your control and it is a good habit to start." I took my ticket, apologized for forgetting and promptly put on my seat belt. As I drove away I was mad because I had to pay a fine and because I had a perfect driving record and had never been in any kind of trouble. Pulling me over for not wearing a seat belt seemed petty and it ruined my day. However, as petty as it may have seemed, I started to buckle up.*

*The next week, I was driving on Pools Creek, a curvy, down-hill road, in the rain. As I approached a sharp left turn, I lost control of my vehicle and proceeded off the bend into a 10-foot ditch. On impact, the air bag deployed, the window glass in the doors busted and the vehicle landed sideways. I unbuckled my seat belt and climbed out the passenger-side window to call the police. Unbelievably, the Cold Spring*



■ Josh Ilg, 2013 Saved by the Belt award recipient, was presented with four tickets to the Sprint Cup race at the [Kentucky Speedway](#) by Kentucky Transportation Cabinet Secretary Mike Hancock (right) and General Manager of the Kentucky Speedway Mark Simendinger (left).

*police officer who gave me my ticket responded. He asked if I was wearing my seat belt and I said, "Honestly, I was angry for getting a ticket last week so I was wearing my seat belt because I didn't want another one. Like you said, you never know what's going to happen."*

*I'd like to say thank you to Officer Hildebrand for not only teaching me responsibility for my own actions, but for caring for the well-being of others. The day I wrecked could have been devastating for my family and me. I sustained minor injuries and a few seat belt burns to the chest and shoulders. If I hadn't been wearing my seat belt, my injuries would have been far more serious. Officer Hildebrand may not change everyone's bad habits, but at least he changed mine."*

## Have you been 'Saved by the Belt'?

We want to hear from you! Share your story about how wearing a seat belt has helped save your life or that of a family member. Those who share a story could inspire others to protect themselves and wear a seat belt and in return be registered to win a "Kentucky Staycation" at a featured destination. The deadline for submissions for the Staycation award is June 2. Post your story on our [Facebook page](#).



# Safety Spotlight: Kentucky's DRE Coordinator recognized at national Lifesavers Conference

## *Drug Recognition Expert supervisor Terry Mosser receives public service award from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration*

The U.S. Department of Transportation's [National Highway Traffic Safety Administration](#) (NHTSA) hosted the [31st Annual Lifesavers Conference](#) April 15 in Denver, Colo. Fourteen individuals and organizations were presented with the agency's top public service award for their tireless efforts to advance highway safety throughout the country. Terry Mosser, Supervisor of Kentucky's [Drug Evaluation and Classification Program](#) within the [Department of Criminal Justice Training](#) (DOCJT), received an award in recognition of his dedication to highway safety and reducing impaired driving, and successful Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) implementation.

The DRE course trains police officers to become highly skilled in recognizing impairment in drivers under the

influence of drugs or alcohol.

Mosser began a career in law enforcement in 1973, spending 11 years as a police officer and detective before becoming an instructor in the DUI/Breath Alcohol Testing Section for the DOCJT in 1985. For 16 years, he was promoted

and transferred to various divisions before joining the DRE in 2001 and becoming a DRE instructor in 2004. He was appointed to his current position of supervisor in May 2009.



■ NHTSA Administrator David Strickland, left, with DRE Instructor Terry Mosser at the 31st Annual Lifesavers Conference April 15.

## Did you know?

### Parents are key in keeping kids safe on the road

A [report](#) from GHSA [highlights programs](#) that get parents involved in their teen's driving experience.

### CMVSA releases teen-based curriculum

The [Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance](#) releases a ["Teens And Trucks"](#) curriculum with safety tips on driving with commercial vehicles.



### May is Global Youth Traffic Safety Month

May is [Global Youth Traffic Safety Month](#) (GYTSM), sponsored by the [National Organizations for Youth Safety](#). GYTSM brings attention to the issue of teen safe driving as we face the high-risk summer driving months.

### NHTSA releases guidelines to minimize in-vehicle distractions

New [distraction guidelines](#) encourage automobile manufacturers to limit the distraction risk connected to electronic devices built into their vehicles.

### Study finds under reporting of distracted-driving crashes

A [report](#) from the [National Safety Council](#) and [Nationwide Insurance](#) finds cell phone-related distracted driving crashes are vastly under reported due to many challenging factors.

### NTSB recommends lowering BAC

The [National Transportation Safety Board](#) voted to recommend states [lower the blood-alcohol content that constitutes drunken driving from 0.08 to 0.05](#). This happened on the 25th anniversary of the [Carrollton bus crash](#), the nation's worst drunken-driving crash.

# YourLetters

The Ashland Police Department could not have been happier with the results of the Ghost Out program at Paul Blazer High School. As noted by the school principal, the students were definitely impacted. A mock crash scene was set up before the students arrived and they were greeted with a response from the police, fire and EMS personnel. The student "victims" did an outstanding job and the assembly guest speaker, Morehead Police Chief Mike Adams, drove the message home of nobody being immune from the tragedy of an impaired driver.

The event drew two local television stations and was well publicized. I would like to thank Division of Highway Safety Programs employee Jack Hutchinson and District 9 employee Jerry Ravenscraft for making the impaired-driving program a huge success!

Major Mark McDowell  
Field Operations Commander  
Ashland, KY, Police Department



## EventCalendar

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

### Did you know?

#### Exercise benefits mature drivers

[Research](#) by the [Hartford Center for Mature Market Excellence](#) and [MIT's AgeLab](#) finds that exercise enhances flexibility and range of motion, improving ability to view vehicle "blind spots," among other traits. Get additional information from AAA [here](#).



#### June 17 is National Motorcycle Ride to Work Day

As [National Motorcycle Ride to Work Day](#) quickly approaches, motorists are asked to safely [share the road](#) with motorcycles, and motorcyclists are asked to [wear proper safety gear](#). Click here to view [how to select a proper helmet](#).

#### Register for SADD's National Conference

The [2013 SADD National Conference: Decades of Change](#) is June 22-25 at the [Hilton Orlando Lake Buena Vista](#) in Orlando, Fla.

## Kentucky Transportation Cabinet



Kentucky Office of Highway Safety

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## Cooperative Agencies



U.S. Department of Transportation  
Federal Highway Administration

