



Darcy Keith and retired KSP Trooper Wade Farley.

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## Law enforcement, highway safety advocates attend 2012 Kentucky Lifesavers Conference

Law enforcement officials and highway safety advocates from around the Commonwealth attended the 2012 Lifesavers Conference at the Galt House Hotel and Suites in downtown Louisville April 25-27.

The conference provided information on a variety of state and national highway safety topics and allowed networking opportunities for individuals working to reduce fatalities and injuries on Kentucky's roadways.

Awards were presented throughout the conference, including the Highway Safety Ambassador award to Darcy Keith, a crash survivor who spoke in the Opening Session. Darcy was riding home to Indiana with friends in 1991 after attending a function at Morehead State University when their car was hit by a semi

tractor-trailer. Two of Darcy's friends were killed instantly and Darcy sustained severe brain trauma, forcing her to relearn basic life skills at the age of 22.

Darcy was presented the award by retired KSP Trooper Wade Farley, the officer who helped save her life that fateful day.

At the awards luncheon, Office of Highway Safety Director Bill Bell presented awards honoring exceptional achievement in each area of the four E's of highway safety: Enforcement, Education, Engineering and Emergency Response.

Sharon Rengers, a registered nurse with Kosair Children's Hospital in Louisville, received the Education award for her 15-year contribution to child passenger safety.

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May is

# Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month

**Guest Contributor**

Wayne Steele, Program Coordinator  
Kentucky Motorcycle Program



May is Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month and the Kentucky Motorcycle Program (KMP) and the Motorcycle Safety Foundation are reminding everyone behind the wheel or behind the handlebars to be aware of their surroundings and take important precautions to keep everyone safe on the road. Because the human element is the most important aspect of traffic safety, here are key rules for drivers and motorcyclists.

## For drivers:

- 1. Minimize distractions.** Put down the cell phone or mobile device and focus on driving. Food, pets and even passengers can be distracting.
- 2. Watch for motorcyclists.** Motorcycles are smaller than other vehicles and are harder to see. Check mirrors and blind spots before entering or exiting a lane of traffic, and at intersections.
- 3. Give motorcyclists room.** Always allow a motorcyclist the full lane width—never try to share a lane. Never tailgate. In dry conditions, motorcycles can stop more quickly than cars.
- 4. Use turn signals.** Always signal your intentions before changing lanes or merging with traffic. Not only is it for everyone's safety, it's the law.
- 5. Keep it in the car.** Trash, including cigarette butts, should stay in the car and not thrown outside where it could hit a motorcyclist. Road debris can kill a rider. Heavier items should be well secured.

## For motorcyclists:

- 1. Get properly trained and stay trained.** The KMP has several courses for all riders, from beginner to experienced. [Click here](#) for information on courses throughout the state.
- 2. Wear proper safety gear.** Make sure all safety gear is made specifically for motorcyclists. Visit [www.helmetcheck.org](http://www.helmetcheck.org) to ensure your helmet is manufactured to U.S. Department of Transportation standards. Wear sturdy gloves, a jacket or riding suit, protective pants and riding boots. Ideally, no one riding a motorcycle should have visible skin, other than a small amount between the bottom of the helmet and the collar of the jacket.
- 3. Don't drink and ride.** Never ride while impaired by alcohol or any kind of drug. Bikes, beer and booze don't mix.
- 4. Ride within your skill limit.** Don't ride faster or farther than your abilities can handle.
- 5. Obey traffic laws.** A motorcycle is a vehicle with the same rights and privileges of any other motor vehicle. Motorcyclists must observe all traffic laws and obtain a proper license or permit.



# Director's Message

— Bill Bell



Back in 1973 when I was five years old, my dad purchased a brand new car – a Volkswagen Superbeetle. These cars were fuel efficient, easy to maintain and pretty cool. After all, the engine was in the back and the trunk was in the front. It also had a built-in storage compartment behind the back seat. However, I used it as a hiding place. That's right, even when the vehicle was in motion. In fact, I rarely remember wearing a seat belt when I was a kid.

Fast-forward 39 years later and, my, how things have changed. The first thing my kids do when getting in a car is buckle up. As a matter of fact, it's one of the few things they do without me asking.

Let's look at some stats. When we last did a car seat survey, Kentuckians' usage rate for child safety seats was at 97 percent. Last year, our overall rate for seat belt usage

was 82.2 percent. The national average for seat belt usage is currently 84 percent. If we were at the national average then approximately 100,000 more Kentuckians would be buckling up. This would further translate into about 12 additional lives saved per year (based on 2010 total fatalities and survival rates of those wearing seat belts). So, if we had 90 percent seat belt usage then we could save an additional 48 lives.

The bottom line is numbers do not lie – seat belts save lives!

This week I was visiting an old friend, Chance Maguire, who is an accomplished poker player. We talked about a friend who recently died in a car crash and was unbelted. Chance reflected and said, "Driving without a seat belt is not worth the gamble."

I couldn't have said it better myself.

**Mark your calendars!**

The national "Click It or Ticket" seat belt enforcement campaign is

**May 20 – June 3.**



Kentucky Office of Highway Safety





I thought this was one of the best Lifesaver Conferences that I have attended. I would like to have been able to attend a breakout session on Motorcycle Safety but was glad the closing speaker talked about the Motorcycle Safety Course. All the breakouts were very informative and presented very well. Thanks.

-- Michael Scrivner



I was traveling on I-64 E between Winchester and Mt. Sterling and had a flat tire. A man pulled up from the Safe Patrol and asked if I needed any help. I had called AAA, but he stayed with me to make sure I was all right. I was amazed at the kindness and thoughtfulness this gentleman showed me. His license number was TO247 [Harvey Holbrook]. So to whoever this kind employee is, I tip my hat to you, sir. You are blessed with a loving kindness that people will never forget. Thank you so much!

--Jackie Carr



Ed and Wanda Laslie of Frankfort.

## B.R.A.K.E.S. teen driver school visits students at Franklin County High School

The Be Responsible and Keep Everyone Safe (B.R.A.K.E.S.) program provided free defensive driver training to teenagers at Franklin County High School in Frankfort on May 5 and 6.

Funds for the program were raised by Frankfort natives Ed, Wanda and Jacob Laslie, who lost their son and brother, Ben, in an automobile crash last April.

The driving school is for 16-to-19-year olds with a learner's permit or driver's license and at least 30 hours of driving experience. Teenagers receive classroom and hands-on training provided by professional driving instructors. Topics include crash avoidance, emergency lane changes, panic stops and skid recovery.

B.R.A.K.E.S. is a non-profit organization founded by National Hot Rod Association Full Throttle Series Top Fuel drag racer Doug Herbert in memory of his two sons, Jon and James, who were killed in a car crash. By training and educating teenage drivers and their parents, the foundation aims to promote safe driving in an attempt to prevent injuries and save lives. [Click here](#) for more information on the B.R.A.K.E.S. program.

# Two highway safety bills pass in 2012 legislative session



Transportation Secretary Mike Hancock and Highway Safety Director Bill Bell join motorcycle safety advocates and Gov. Steve Beshear as HB 328 is signed into law on April 11.

**Seat belts:** [SB 89](#) expands Kentucky's seat belt law to include 15-person passenger vans. The bill was filed in response to a 2010 crash on I-65 near Munfordville that killed 11 people, most of whom weren't wearing seat belts. State law previously required seat belt use in vehicles designed to carry 10 or fewer passengers.

**Motorcycle license:** [HB 328](#) makes the motorcycle instruction permit good for one year, with the ability to renew the permit one time. This will stop the cycle of motorcyclists repeatedly renewing a permit instead of getting a motorcycle license, and therefore bypassing the Motorcycle Safety Course that is required for receiving a license.

(cont. from cover)



Tom Wright receives the Emergency Response award.

Tom Wright, an engineering branch manager with the Transportation Cabinet, received the Emergency Response award for his dedication to improving response time to roadway emergencies.

Deputy Ryan Bailey of the Hopkins County Sheriff's Office received the Enforcement award for taking an active role in highway safety and leading his office in traffic activity.



Deputy Ryan Bailey receives the Enforcement award.

Ken Agent, a research engineer with the University of Kentucky Transportation Center, received the Engineering Award for his 30 years of experience with traffic safety research and training.

[Click here](#) for more information on the Kentucky Lifesavers Conference.



Ken Agent receives the Engineering award.



Sharon Rengers receives the Education award.



# SafetySpotlight ≡

## Meet recent staff additions to the Kentucky Office of Highway Safety

DeShaun Bailey is the new state-wide child passenger safety coordinator for the Kentucky Office of Highway Safety. He transferred from the Division of Accounts where he worked for two years in the Pre-Audit section. Prior to that, he worked for the Department of Juvenile Justice for eight years in various positions. After graduating from Western Hills High School in Frankfort in 1997, DeShaun

attended a music business and recording school in Chillicothe, Ohio, called The Recording Workshop. In his spare time, he enjoys watching college football, mixing live sound for his church and spending time with his family. DeShaun resides in Lexington with his wife, Lindsey and their 9-month-old daughter, Addison. He can be contacted at 502-564-9900, ext. 4434 or [deshaun.bailey@ky.gov](mailto:deshaun.bailey@ky.gov).



▲ DeShaun Bailey



▲ Tiffany Duvall

Tiffany Duvall is a Program Coordinator with the Kentucky Office of Highway Safety. She travels to schools and businesses throughout the state bringing awareness to the dangers of impaired driving and distracted driving and the benefits of seat belts. Tiffany has been with the Transportation Cabinet for 13 years. She transferred to Highway Safety from the Division of Driver Licensing where she was the Out-of-State DUI Coordinator. She was a member of

the Driver Licensing help desk for nine years and coordinated the education requirements for DUI convictions over the last seven years.

Tiffany graduated from Franklin County High School and currently resides in Frankfort with her husband, Josh. In their spare time they enjoy being outdoors on the water or hiking with their two dogs. They are expecting their first child in October. Tiffany can be contacted at [TiffanyL.Duvall@ky.gov](mailto:TiffanyL.Duvall@ky.gov) or 502-564-9900, ext. 3601

### Did you know?

#### Sign up for recall alerts

Sign up to get the latest recall information on vehicles, tires and car seats with [NHTSA's RSS feed](#).



 U.S. Department of Transportation

#### Celebrities support national distracted driving efforts

Singer and "American Idol" winner Jordin Sparks and race car driver Andy Pilgrim appeared at a National Transportation Safety Board meeting to speak about the dangers of texting and driving. [Read more here.](#)

#### Distracted driving design challenge encourages students to take action

NHTSA launches a new contest for students to design a social networking icon that will be used in DOT's distracted driving campaign and encourage young drivers to speak up when riding with a distracted driver. [Read more.](#)



# Highway Safety activities demonstrated at Governor's 2012 Derby Breakfast

The Kentucky Office of Highway Safety took its [Rollover Simulator](#) to the Governor's 2012 [Derby Breakfast Celebration](#) in downtown Frankfort on May 5. The simulator demonstrates the importance of seat belts by showing what can happen to unbelted occupants in a rollover crash. Unbuckled dummies are ejected from the simulator as it rolls while buckled dummies remain restrained. Children were given coloring books promoting highway safety topics and the [Kentucky Engineering Exposure Network](#).



## Did you know?

### Women bike across U.S. for Safe Routes to School

Four women biked more than 5,000 miles across the U.S. to support the Safe Routes to School National Partnership. Safe Routes to School is a Federal Highway Administration program dedicated to making it easier for students to walk or bike to school by addressing the safety risks associated with walking and riding a bike. [Read more here.](#)

### Rules to prevent car back-over deaths delayed

Rules aimed at helping drivers avoid unintentionally backing over children, already overdue, are being delayed again following complaints from automakers that requiring rear view video camera systems on new cars and trucks would be too expensive. In a letter to lawmakers, Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood said his department needs more time for "research and data analysis" before it can issue regulations. [Read more here.](#)

### Study finds more parents follow updated car seat guidelines

A year after the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) updated its [child safety seat guidelines](#) to recommend that children remain rear-facing until age 2 and older kids stay in booster seats longer, the American Automobile Association's survey found that 90 percent of parents with kids younger than 13 know about the changes. [Read more here.](#)

### NHTSA creates website for parents

NHTSA's website just for parents has information to keep kids safe from birth to adulthood. Find information on everything from buying their very first car seat to the day they receive the keys to the family car. Check out [www.safercar.gov/parents](http://www.safercar.gov/parents) and tell NHTSA what you think.

### NHTSA urges parents to choose the right car seat

From rear-facing to forward-facing to booster to seat belt, making sure children are secured in a properly installed safety restraint is a critical step in protecting them from harm. Know for sure with help from NHTSA here: [Child Passenger Safety](#).

Read Sec. Ray LaHood's blog [here](#).



# EventCalendar

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

## May 9

- D2 Simulator at Governor's Safety and Health Conference
- Rollover Simulator at East Ridge High School

## May 10

- D2 Simulator at Governor's Safety and Health Conference
- D2 Simulator at Lincoln County High School

## May 11

- D2 and Rollover simulators at Franklin Simpson High School
- D2 and 3D simulators at Moore Traditional High School
- SAFE KIDS child seat safety event at Barren River District Health Department

## May 12

- University of Kentucky Click It or Ticket sponsorship baseball game

## May 15

- Rollover Simulator at Burlington Elementary School

## May 16

- Rollover Simulator at Menifee County High School
- Click It or Ticket press conference at Cincinnati Riverfront Park

## May 17

- Child seat safety event at Taylor Regional Hospital
- Click It or Ticket press conference at KFC YUM Center
- Click It or Ticket press conference at Ashland Riverfront Park

## May 18

- Click It or Ticket press conference at Hazard Public Library

## May 21

- Click It or Ticket enforcement mobilization begins

## May 22

- D2 Simulator at Grayson County Middle School

## May 25

- SAFE KIDS child seat safety event at Dollar Mart

## June 2

- Child seat safety event at Woodford County Soccer Complex

## June 3

- Click It or Ticket enforcement mobilization ends

## June 19

- Safety booth at 2012 Motor Carrier Training Conference

## June 20

- Rollover Simulator at LG&E Safety Day

## July 4

- Rollover Simulator at Shepherdsville Police Department

## July 17

- Safety booth at Paroquet Springs Conference Center

## July 21

- Safety booth at Pikeville Hillbilly Christmas in July

## July 25

- Safety booth and presentation at University of Louisville

## Kentucky Transportation Cabinet



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## Cooperative Agencies



U.S. Department of Transportation  
**Federal Highway Administration**

