



Kentucky Office of Highway Safety



Kentucky State Police Senior Trooper Nathan Clinkenbeard, from Post 1 headquartered in Mayfield, was honored at the awards for writing the most citations – 739. Clinkenbeard, center, accepts the award from Kentucky Transportation Cabinet State Highway Engineer Steve Waddle, left, and KSP Commissioner Rodney Brewer.

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

The [Kentucky Office of Highway Safety \(KOHS\)](#) recently honored 137 law enforcement officers from 119 agencies across the Commonwealth for their efforts to increase the use of seat belts and child restraints in motor vehicles.

The fourth annual [Governor's Occupant Protection Awards ceremony](#) was at the Embassy Suites in Lexington. Awards were presented to officers with the most occupant protection citations in each agency and division. There are six divisions, broken down by number of officers within the agency, plus a division for Kentucky State Police.

"Despite a wealth of data showing that seat belts and child restraints save lives, each year hundreds of unrestrained motorists lose their lives on Kentucky roadways," KOHS Director Bill Bell said before presenting the awards. "These officers, their departments and agencies render a great service for public safety by enforcing our occupant protection laws."

There were 638 highway fatalities in [Kentucky](#) in 2013, with 483 killed in motor vehicles. Of those 483 killed, 278 were not wearing a seat belt.

"Kentucky's seat belt usage rate increased with the passage of the primary law from 67.2 percent in 2006 to 85 percent in 2013," Bell said. "It's obvious that law enforcement is making a difference. However, there is still a great deal of work to be done — one fatality is too many."

According to the [National Highway Traffic Safety Administration \(NHTSA\)](#), seat belts, when worn correctly, are proven to reduce the risk of fatal injuries to front-seat occupants by 45 percent – and by 60 percent in pickup trucks, SUVs and minivans. Also according to NHTSA, child restraints reduce the risk of fatal injuries by 71 percent for infants and by 54 percent for toddlers in passenger cars, and by 58 percent and 59 percent, respectively, in light trucks.

A list of [individual](#) and [division](#) award recipients is also available.

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Director's Message — Bill Bell



Download the Textlimit app for your teen driver

"With four kids, bedtime in our house is a crisis..."

- Comedian Jim Gaffigan

You must have a sense of humor to have four or more kids. This is why I can identify with the stand-up routine of Jim Gaffigan. Basically, with four kids everything is amplified. Along with the obvious increase in noise, it also includes (but is not limited to) school fundraisers, sporting events, lunches, water consumption, homework, complaining, and wireless device usage.

We have at least five rules concerning personal communication device usage and between our family of six we have eight gadgets - one iPad, three iPhones, a tablet, and three iPod Touches. Someone is on one of these from the time school is out until bedtime and sometimes, beyond. Thus, one of the newer rules is "before bed, all devices are left in the kitchen."

Fortunately and unfortunately, this is the world in which we live. The last three or four generations have had to deal with kids being glued to TVs. But, unless children are watching educational television there is not usually a redeeming value in that.

Now, with smart phones and tablets, kids have the "world" at their fingertips. Our children have actually used their devices for schoolwork, art projects, educational games, and simply finding answers ... to anything.

However, as a parent, you still have to fight for their attention. Sometimes that means confiscating the devices.

One rule we have yet to make is using these devices in the car while they are driving. With my oldest being 13, we have about three years to hammer home the idea that smart phones are to be used only for emergencies while driving, and only if the vehicle is stopped.

A tool the Bell family will be using is the [textlimit app](#). We will be able to keep tabs on everyone's phones and also track their speed with this mobile application. Right now, it is free to all Kentuckians - individuals and business owners - to track phone usage in the vehicles they own. Just use the NOTEXTKY code.

It's a device most will find beneficial as family members try to keep up with all the comings and goings of an active brood and at the same time keep them safe. It's just another tool this family will use and your family might find it helpful too.



Did you know?

Study finds a link between lower teen deaths and texting bans

A study published in the August edition of the [American Journal of Public Health](#) finds a decrease of teen deaths in states with a texting ban. Depending on the law, states can see a decrease of up to 11 percent.

Parents may drive teens to distraction on the road

According to research by the [American Psychological Association](#), parents play a direct role in distracted teen driving, with more than half of teens talking on cellphones with their mother or father while driving.

Report highlights teen distracted driving policies and programs

A new [Governors Highway Safety Association report](#) explores the problem of teen distracted driving and highlights promising policies designed to address this growing concern.

Safety Spotlight ≡

Teens can learn

'Driving Skills for Life'



In the midst of growing national awareness about distracted driving, [Ford Motor Company Fund](#) is partnering with the [Kentucky Office of Highway Safety](#) and [Governors Highway Safety Association](#) to bring the [Ford Driving Skills for Life](#) (Ford DSFL) Ride and Drive teen safe driving event to Louisville Sept. 13-14.

In 2013, there were 23,869 crashes in Kentucky involving drivers under 21. These crashes resulted in 7,532 injuries and 86 fatalities.

According to the [National Highway Traffic Safety Administration](#), traffic crashes are the leading cause of death for teens 15 and older. Teen drivers, mile to mile, are in three times as many fatal crashes as all other drivers due to limited driving

experience and immaturity that often results in high-risk behavior behind the wheel.

During the Ford DSFL program, teen drivers learn advanced safe-driving skills from some of the nation's top driving instructors in hands-on driving modules.

The half-day course takes teens through the dangerous realities of reckless driving, speeding, maneuvering around obstacles in the road, skid control and driving distractions. The specially equipped course and vehicles let teen drivers experience the worst the road has to offer in a controlled and safe environment.

In order to attend a Ford DSFL hands-on clinic, participants must have either their permit or driver's

license. The program is free of cost and vehicles will be provided for the event. Parents and guardians are strongly encouraged to attend the clinic and learn alongside participants. There will also be an information session for parents.

In addition to hands-on events, the program features an [interactive Web site](#) with learning modules, quizzes, car care and driving tip videos, interactive games and an eco-driving curriculum. Free educator packets are available for students and parents, as well as teachers and community programs. Individual programs can be created to meet the specific needs of communities and schools.

Learn more and sign up for a clinic at www.drivingskillsforlife.com.

Kentucky law enforcement: 'Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over'

Kentucky law enforcement agencies joined with the [Kentucky Office of Highway Safety \(KOHS\)](#) and officers across the nation for the ["Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over"](#) campaign Aug. 13 to Sept. 1.

According to the [National Highway Traffic Safety Administration \(NHTSA\)](#), the federal agency that funds the campaign, a person is killed in a drunken-driving crash every 51 minutes. Over the Labor Day weekend, those fatalities increase to one every 34 minutes.

According to NHTSA, high-visibility enforcement such as the "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" campaign reduces alcohol-impaired driving fatalities by as much as 20 percent.



In 2013, [Kentucky](#) recorded more than 5,500 impaired driving crashes, resulting in 138 deaths and more than 3,000 injuries. During the Labor Day holiday weekend, eight people were killed and 295 were injured on our roadways. Two of those deaths involved alcohol.

Adding one more tool to combat drinking and driving, KOHS partnered with [Mobile Life Solutions](#) last year to develop a free "Drive Sober Kentucky" application that may be downloaded at www.DriveSoberKY.com.

Your Letters



On Wednesday, July 23, my husband and I were traveling through Kentucky on I-64 about 3:30 in the afternoon. Our green van overheated and we were stranded with our seven children. However, one of your SAFE assist drivers named Travis stopped to see how he could help. He was so nice and helpful!

I am sending you this "Thank you" for having such a program on your interstates. Also I want you to know how kind and helpful Travis was to us in our predicament. In addition to the tow truck that AAA sent, Travis was able to get a state trooper to come along.

Between the three vehicles we were able to get our family of nine to the nearest town where we could get our van repaired.

Travis was amazing how he coordinated the whole solution. I hope that he is able to be rewarded with some special recognition for the fine service that he is offering to motorists such as ourselves.

Thank you very much.

Carol Walker

EventCalendar

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

Did you know?

New program available for parents of teen drivers

The [Foundation for Advancing Alcohol Responsibility](#) recently developed the [I Know Everything](#) program that highlights the issues of drunken driving and distracted driving, and reiterates to parents that they have the most influence on their teen's driving behaviors.

[I Know Everything.com](#)

FOUNDATION FOR
ADVANCING ALCOHOL
RESPONSIBILITY.ORG

Drive Safely to Work Week materials now available

A tool kit with information on [Drive Safely to Work Week](#) (Oct. 6-10) is now available for employers to download.

NHTSA provides tips on school zone and bus stop safety

As a new school year begins, the [National Highway Traffic Safety Administration](#) reminds parents, students and motorists to be alert and to [put safety first in school zones and school bus stops](#).

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