



## Law enforcement officers, agencies honored for impaired driving enforcement

The Kentucky Office of Highway Safety (KOHS) recently honored 206 law enforcement officers from 174 agencies across the Commonwealth for their efforts to target impaired drivers.

The 2013 Governor's Impaired Driving Enforcement Awards ceremony was at the Marriott Louisville East Dec. 3. Awards were presented to officers with the most impaired driving arrests in each agency and division.

"Impaired driving is not an accident – it's an epidemic of careless disregard for human life," KOHS Director Bill Bell said. "These officers, their departments and agencies render a great service for public safety by removing drunken and drugged drivers from our roads."

Last year, Kentucky recorded more than 5,750 alcohol-related crashes, resulting in 146 deaths and more than 3,000 injuries.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), one in three Americans will be impacted

by a drunken driving crash in their lifetime.

John Boel, news anchor with WAVE3 News in Louisville and author of "On The News, In The News," spoke about his struggle with alcoholism and his two DUI arrests.

"In recovery, I've learned something from everyone who has shared with me," Boel said. "I hope the lessons I've learned and experienced will be of value to these officers as they continue their important work."

To raise awareness of the dangers of impaired driving and to alert the public of an increased enforcement presence

during the holidays, the annual "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" campaign began Dec. 13, 2013 and will run through Jan. 1, 2014. This campaign is sponsored by NHTSA and the KOHS.

For more information, visit the "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" Campaign Headquarters at [www.nhtsa.gov/drivesober](http://www.nhtsa.gov/drivesober).

A list of individual winners can be viewed [here](#). A list of division winners can be viewed [here](#). Photos of award recipients can be viewed on [Gov. Steve Beshear's FlickrR](#) page.

*KSP Sgt. Stephen S. Walker was the overall winner with 266 impaired driving arrests.*



### In this issue:

Director's Message- Download the free Drive Sober app

Winter driving safety - A message from KSP

Your Letters- SAFE Patrol aids motorist in western Kentucky

# Director's Message — Bill Bell



You will not go anywhere without your phone, which will not only have a camera (for stills and video), it will have a flashlight, GPS-based map, Internet connection, music on demand, radio, recorder, games and email and texting capability."

What would you have thought if someone said this to you 25 years ago?

Keep in mind this was the time when people had cell phones as big as bricks or attached to their car – remember car phones?

For the past few years, highway safety folks have battled technological changes in our vehicles that have created a new level of distracted driving. We now have "tablets" built into our dashboards and these super smart phones as described above. No wonder distracted driving is the leading cause for crashes.

In Kentucky, and on a national stage, we are fighting back. We are talking more and more about using technology to save lives on our highways in small increments and eventually by the thousands. Former Administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration [David Strickland](#) recently outlined several major projects being researched that will save

thousands of lives on our highways. But, these ideas will take several years to come to fruition.

A handful of states, including Kentucky, are looking at "shovel-ready" technology, such as text blocking apps and "Drive Sober" apps. In December, the Kentucky Office of Highway Safety unveiled our [Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over app](#). This smart phone application is free to download and it has uses for everyone.

The app includes tabs for reporting suspected impaired drivers via Kentucky State Police, finding a safe ride home, costs of a DUI, blood-alcohol estimator, DUI statutes and signing up to be a [HERO – a designated driver](#). Take advantage of this tool and if you see a suspected drunk driver on the road let a passenger make the call to KSP or, if alone, be safe when using this one touch feature.

And from KOHS,

*Have a safe and happy holiday season!*



## NO DUI Kentucky

# DOWNLOAD NOW



# KENTUCKY STATE POLICE OFFERS WINTER DRIVING TIPS

Kentuckians are being dealt a wintery forecast to kick off the Thanksgiving holiday travel weekend. [The Kentucky State Police](#) is asking motorists to be aware that weather conditions may change rapidly over the four-day holiday.

"Winter weather provides new challenges and responsibilities to the public and the Kentucky State Police," says KSP spokesman Sgt. Michael Webb.

"We ask drivers to be prepared to meet the challenges of the upcoming winter driving season. Plan ahead, be sure everyone in the vehicle is properly restrained, drive defensively and ensure their vehicle is properly maintained to handle the effects of cold temperatures."

KSP reports that slippery roads were the contributing factor in 12,034 crashes and 72 fatalities in 2012.

## HERE ARE A FEW SIMPLE STEPS TO HELP KEEP YOU ON THE ROAD AND LESS STRESSED:

- Avoid travel unless necessary when winter weather is in your area.
- Slow down.
- Always wear your seat belt.

## DRIVING CONSIDERATIONS

- Leave early – allow more travel time; expect delays.
- Increase distance between vehicles – it takes significantly longer to stop on snow covered or icy roadways.
- Clear all windows on your vehicle prior to travel – having unobstructed vision is vital to avoid running off of the road or having a collision.
- Turn on your vehicle's headlamps. Remove any dirt, mud or snow.
- Use caution on bridges and overpasses as they are susceptible to freezing before roadways.
- Avoid using cruise control – cruise can cause the vehicle's wheels to continue turning on a slippery surface when speed needs to be decreased.

## BE PREPARED

- Ensure your vehicle has a full tank of gas in the event you are stranded for an extended period of time.
- Charge your cellular phone prior to departure.
- Take a blanket.
- Notify a family member or a friend of your travel plans prior to departure – if you travel is interrupted, someone will know.

## COLLISION INFORMATION

- Be patient – bad weather also limits the capabilities of law enforcement officers and emergency crews and increases response time. Also, keep in mind that they will be experiencing a high volume of requests for service.
- Attempt to move your vehicle out of the roadway if you are involved in a minor, non-injury traffic collision; especially if you are in a dangerous area such as a curve or a blind hill.
- If your vehicle is stranded or wrecked but not in the roadway, attempts to recover your vehicle will have to wait until conditions improve for safety considerations.

To view KSP's Winter Driving Tip Sheet, click [here](#).



# Your Letters

Good morning!

I was stranded outside of Paducah on Interstate 24. A gentleman by the name of Leroy stopped and made sure a wrecker came to assist with a breakdown. This was especially appreciated because I was pulling a horse and trailer!

We safely got home. Please give our thanks to Leroy.

Shelley Blondeau



# Event Calendar

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

## Did you know?

### SADD Shines Day is Feb. 5

[SADD Shines Day](#) is Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2014. This is a day to celebrate SADD and the difference it makes nationwide.

### A new danger behind the wheel

Technology has now inspired an alarming new trend: [drivers taking self-portraits](#), or ["selfies," with their smartphone cameras while in motion](#). Read more about distracted driving in the [State Farm distracted driving survey](#).

### Motor fuels tax rate to decline by 1.5 cents per gallon on Jan. 1

Kentucky's "gas tax" on sales of gasoline, diesel and ethanol motor fuels will [decrease by 1.5 cents per gallon](#) on New Year's Day, reflecting a drop in the calculated average wholesale fuel price.

### Kentucky improves in "worst drivers" ranking

In 2010, CarInsuranceComparison.com ranked Kentucky third in the country for "worst drivers states". [We now rank 24th](#).

### Keep your child safe this winter

Even with the cold temperatures, do not place a child wearing a puffy coat in a car seat. [Watch this news story](#) to see why.

### Updated LATCH guidelines effective in February

[Important changes](#) in Lower Anchors and Tethers for Children ([LATCH](#)) guidelines become [effective in February 2014](#).

## 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](mailto:highwaysafety@ky.gov)

Editor: Erin Eggen—  
[erin.eggen@ky.gov](mailto:erin.eggen@ky.gov)

Designer: Shannon Martin—  
[shannonl.martin@ky.gov](mailto:shannonl.martin@ky.gov)

## Cooperative Agencies



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

Federal Highway  
Administration

