

# THE MAINE LIAISON



Edition 7

Maine Bureau of Highway Safety

June 2016

## Summer Safety

### 2015 Motorcycle Rider Deaths

Although motorcycle deaths in Maine are almost half of what they were a year ago, State Police have organized a working group to review last year's numbers. 2015 ended with 32 motorcycle deaths. So far this year there have been six motorcycle deaths, compared to ten at this same time in 2015.

The study group is made up of State Police, the Bureau of Highway Safety, the Department of Transportation, the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, Maine Motorcycle Political Action Committee and the United Bikers of Maine.

John Kohler, Motorcycle Safety Program Coordinator from the Maine Bureau of Motor Vehicles, compiled these statistics of the 2015 fatal motorcycle crashes --

- All crashes occurred during dry road conditions.
- 74% were during daylight hours.
- 73% involved excessive speed.
- 74% alcohol use was confirmed or suspected.
- 33% were a result of improper cornering.
- 74% were not wearing a helmet.
- Nearly half of crashes did not involve other vehicles
- 3 involved wildlife (2 deer, 1 moose).

The group also concluded that poor judgment by the operator of the motorcycle was a factor in most of the crashes.

#### The motorcycle study group had the following safety tips --

- Don't ride a motorcycle unless you have been properly trained and licensed to do so.
- If you are already properly licensed take an experienced rider's course to freshen up your skills.
- Slow down, especially on corners and rough terrain.
- Don't ride impaired (alcohol or drugs).
- Wear proper safety equipment. (helmet with face shield or eye protection, jacket, boots, gloves and leather gear)

FOR MORE INFO – LT. BRUCE SCOTT, MAINE STATE POLICE - 624-8946 or LAUREN STEWART, DIRECTOR OF THE MAINE BUREAU OF HIGHWAY SAFETY – 626-3840



#### IN THIS ISSUE:

- Milwaukee PD & Traffic
- Driving Dynamics
- Chemists Corner
- ARIDE
- Fentanyl
- Dangers to Officers
- Surprise

## Milwaukee Officials Unveil Plan to Reduce Crime, Improve Traffic Safety

MILWAUKEE -- Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett, Milwaukee Police Chief Ed Flynn and Alderman Terry Witkowski introduced on Tuesday, June 14th what they call the "Milwaukee Police Department Traffic Safety Plan" -- a plan aimed at reducing crime and improving traffic safety in the city.



Officials say they are getting a \$150,000 state grant that allows them to put more enforcement in high crime, high car thefts areas through traffic enforcement.

Mayor Barrett has noticed drivers scoffing at the law. "Just running the light -- my reactions range from, 'What are you doing?' to 'This is insane,'" Barrett said.

It's more of a problem than many think. Now, police are beginning an enhanced traffic stop enforcement project in areas which have high violent crime and stolen cars.

"When car stops go up, shootings robberies, and car thefts go down. When car stops go down, shootings, robberies and car thefts go up," Flynn said.

Would this create more stops targeting the poor and African-Americans? Common Council President Ashanti Hamilton said it was an initial concern.

"Many of the folks that are living in those areas are also asking for police presence. So we really want to give them that," Hamilton said.



People who live in the neighborhood such as Laura Walton just want the danger to stop.

"It's dangerous. A lot of kids die like that. A lot of people die like that from speeding and not paying attention. It's unfortunate," Walton said.

Flynn said another challenge is high-speed chases. He would like to see stronger prosecutions and if need be, a change in law to punish criminals who simply take off.

<http://fox6now.com/2016/06/14/milwaukee-officials-to-unveil-plan-aimed-reducing-crime-improving-traffic-safety/>

**NHTSA Impaired Driving Update** – The June 2016 issue of NHTSA's *Impaired Driving Update* newsletter is available for download from the National LEL Program website. [nlelp.org](http://nlelp.org)



**4th of July Drunk Driving Prevention Campaign** – According to data from National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), 41 percent of the people killed in motor vehicle crashes during the 2014 July 4th holiday period died in crashes involving a driver with a blood alcohol concentration of .08 or higher. <http://www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov/july4th>



**DRUG RECOGNITION EXPERT REFRESHER TRAINING**



**Date:** September 1, 2016  
**Location:** MCJA  
**Time:** 8:00 - 4:30  
**Fee:** \$25.00 (lunch included)  
**Contact:** James Lyman 877-8009

**Program Description:**

This class is offered as an annual Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) refresher course. Topics will include current trends and updates to the DRE program, and an interactive discussion about future concerns in the program. DRE instructors will be on hand to answer questions and review re-certification packets as needed. This class will meet the mandatory bi-annual requirements for re-certification training.

Although this class is intended for the DRE with a certification expiration date within the next 12 months, all DRE's are encouraged to attend.

**Personnel who may attend:** Currently certified DRE's

**Prerequisites:** None

**Special Requirements:** Due to the length of time required for instructors to review re-certification materials, I would encourage DRE's to seek an instructor and complete that process prior to the class. On the day of class, Instructors will be available to review re-certification materials by appointment only, which can be scheduled through the MCJA coordinator.

**Class Limit:** 50 students



The Maine Driving Dynamics course is a driver improvement course that is aimed to improve a student's defensive driving awareness and abilities. This five-hour course includes discussion of collision avoidance techniques, safety issues, driver habits and attitudes, and the basic elements that constantly challenge drivers on Maine's highways. Our goal is to save lives, prevent injuries, and reduce vehicle-related crashes.

A student who completes the course will receive a three-point credit on their driving record. It may take up to 2 weeks for processing. Questions regarding your license should be addressed to **Bureau of Motor Vehicles at 207-624-9000**. You can also find a link at our website: <http://www.maine.gov/dps/bhs/>

Bangor	EMCC	974-4626	8:30am-2pm	Sat., 7/16/16
Caribou	Caribou PD	493-3301	8:30am-2pm	Sat., 7/16/16
Auburn	Auburn PD	333-6650*2050	8:30am-2pm	Sat., 7/23/16
Ellsworth	Ellsworth PD	667-2168	8:30am-2pm	Sat., 7/23/16
Yarmouth	Yarmouth PD	846-3333	8:30am-2pm	Sat., 7/23/16
Berwick	Berwick PD	698-1136	8:30am-2pm	Sat., 7/30/16



**Motorist in Truck Packed With Guns Told Cops He Was Rushing to Save Teen, Sources Say**  
Police stopped the group at the toll plaza Tuesday morning because their truck had a cracked windshield, Port Authority Police said.

[ABC News](#)

---

**Police seize 12 kilos of suspected cocaine in Livonia**

The traffic stop took place at around 10:30 a.m., after police in Caton spotted a PT Cruiser with "defective equipment," the release said. [Freep.com](#)

---

**South Portland traffic stop leads to heroin bust**

.....initially stopped Monday by South Portland police on Main Street and given a field sobriety test .....During the test, Gonyer showed signs of an opiate overdose and was taken to the hospital.....

[pressherald.com](#)

## CHEMISTS'

### OPINION

#### Understanding Hospital Lab Ethanol Results for Court

This is the first of what we hope will be a monthly article on various laboratory topics. This month we will cover converting serum/plasma alcohol concentrations to equivalent whole blood alcohol concentrations.

We often get requests for us to explain a hospital lab ethanol result and to convert the result to the format that is reported in our Forensic Alcohol Certificate of Analysis. Hospital alcohol tests are normally performed on serum/plasma samples.

It's important to know that serum/plasma has a higher concentration of water compared to whole blood. Alcohol has a very strong affinity for water, so the concentration of alcohol in the serum/plasma will be higher than that in whole blood. There are numerous references for the average conversion rate, but for forensic purposes, we use a very conservative ratio.

Another difference between a hospital result and a forensic result is the units of measurement used. Hospitals typically report ethanol in milligrams/deciliter (mg/dL). Forensic analyses are normally reported out in grams/deciliter (g/dL).

If you have a hospital lab report and you would like to have us convert the ethanol result to an equivalent forensic whole blood alcohol result, we would be glad to do that. If needed, we could also provide a formal letter explaining how we convert the result, including our citation for our how we convert the result, including our citation for our source of the conversion ratio.

Steve Pierce  
Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory

---

#### ***Prevalence of Marijuana Involvement in Fatal Crashes: Washington, 2010-2014 –***

The AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety has released a report that quantifies the prevalence of marijuana involvement in fatal crashes in Washington State and investigates whether the prevalence changed after an initiative that legalized marijuana and created a new limit for driving under its influence. [AAAfoundation.org](#)



NATIONAL  
**LAW ENFORCEMENT LIAISON**  
PROGRAM



# ARIDE

Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement



**Date: July 11-12, 2016**

**Location: Somerset County Sheriff's Office**

**Time: 8:00 - 5:00**

**Fee: None**

**Contact: James Lyman 877-8009**

## **Program Description:**

The Maine Bureau of Highway Safety and the Maine Criminal Justice Academy are pleased to offer The National Highway Traffic Safety Administrations' A.R.I.D.E. course. The course provides officers a better understanding of the elements surrounding the enforcement of impaired driver laws. The course is designed to help officers become more proficient at detecting, apprehending, testing and prosecuting impaired drivers. The course includes elements of both the Standardized Field Sobriety Testing (SFST) and Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) curriculum. This course is not intended to certify you as a Drug Recognition Expert, although it is being considered as a prerequisite for future DRE candidates.

## **Personnel who may attend:**

All full time law enforcement officers actively enforcing impaired driving laws that work for a department that is committed to detecting and deterring impaired drivers.

## **Prerequisites:**

- Full Time Law Enforcement Officer
- Must have completed the SFST program and been deemed proficient by the MCJA.
- Must meet with an instructor prior to the beginning of the class and review your SFST skills at which time the instructor will sign a new proficiency exam sheet. The signed exam sheet is required on the first day of class. Students without the sheet will not participate.

Twenty seven officers just completed the ARIDE class in Bangor. The MeBHS's goal is to add 150 ARIDE trained officers this year and next. This year's election may make cannabis use legal. If this is the situation we in law enforcement need to be ready. This means training and awareness.

Do you know how cannabis effects the eyes? Eyelids? Muscles?  
Do you know why it is as dangerous as alcohol while driving?



## DEA Warning to Police and Public: Fentanyl Exposure Kill



### Roll Call Video Advises Law Enforcement to Exercise Extreme Caution

DEA has released a Roll Call video to all law enforcement nationwide about the dangers of improperly handling fentanyl and its deadly consequences. Acting Deputy Administrator Jack Riley and two local police detectives from New Jersey appear on the video to urge any law enforcement personnel who come in contact with fentanyl or fentanyl compounds to take the drugs directly to a lab.

“Fentanyl can kill you,” Riley said. “Fentanyl is being sold as heroin in virtually every corner of our country. It’s produced clandestinely in Mexico, and (also) comes directly from China. It is 40 to 50 times stronger than street-level heroin. A very small amount ingested, or absorbed through your skin, can kill you.”

Two Atlantic County, NJ detectives were recently exposed to a very small amount of fentanyl, and appeared on the video. Said one detective: “I thought that was it. I thought I was dying. It felt like my body was shutting down.”

Riley also admonished police to skip testing on the scene, and encouraged them to also remember potential harm to police canines during the course of duties.

“Don’t field test it in your car, or on the street, or take it back to the office. Transport it directly to a laboratory, where it can be safely handled and tested.”

The video can be accessed at: <https://www.dea.gov/divisions/hq/2016/hq061016.shtml>

Fentanyl is transdermal—meaning it is absorbed through the skin. Abusers will use the patch orally either swallowed or sublingually, smoke it or as a patch.



Consider this— take a gram of fentanyl and divide into 1000 parts. Now take one of those parts and divide it into 1000 parts. You now have a microgram. When determining dosages for general anesthesia that is the basic start— 2mcg/kg. A 200 pound person would only need 180 of these mcg to be out cold for a procedure. [Drugs.com](http://Drugs.com)



Protect  
Yourself  
and  
Your K-9  
Partner





Together,  
We Can Get  
Below 100

- Wear Your Belt
- Wear your vest
- Watch your speed
- WIN – What’s Important Now?
- Remember: Complacency Kills!

ALL GAVE SOME

SOME GAVE ALL

On average, one law enforcement officer is killed in the line of duty somewhere in the United States every 61 hours. Since the first known line-of-duty death in 1791, more than 20,000 U.S. law enforcement officers have made the ultimate sacrifice.

[nleomf.org](http://nleomf.org)



## Highway Safety Initiatives

By Steven R. Casstevens, Assistant Chief, Hoffman Estates, Illinois, Police Department, and Coordinator of the Illinois Traffic Safety Challenge

How many citations do law enforcement officers around the country issue each and every day for motorists not wearing their seat belts? Thousands. Why do we enforce belt laws? For one simple reason: they are the single best protection against injury or death in a traffic crash. Law enforcement officers should set the example by always wearing safety belts.

As officers on the street, we have heard all of the reasons why motorists choose not to wear their seat belts: *They are uncomfortable. They wrinkle my clothes. I'm only going down the street. I just got back in my car. We don't listen to the excuses; we write the citations.*

But many police officers still don't routinely wear their seat belts when driving their squad cars. We have our own excuses: *The shoulder belt catches on my uniform. The lap belt could tangle on my weapon if I tried to exit the squad car quickly.* Every officer should be wearing a seat belt every time he or she gets into a squad car for any reason.

[policechiefmagazine.org](http://policechiefmagazine.org)



## Speeding Cops

By Richard J. Ashton, Chief of Police (Retired), Frederick, Maryland; and Grant/Technical Management Manager, IACP

The dashboard video<sup>1</sup> of Florida Highway Patrol (FHP) Trooper Jane Watts's pursuit on October 11, 2011, of uniformed, off-duty Miami, Florida, Police Officer Fausto Lopez, who was driving 120 miles per hour (mph) in a marked cruiser on the Florida Turnpike en route to off-duty employment, brought front and center the longstanding and pervasive issue of speeding cops. In the year prior to this traffic stop, Lopez averaged at least 90 mph on 237 days and 100 mph or higher on 114 days. Ironically, even on the days right after this stop, Lopez still drove in the 80-mph range and twice averaged 96 mph.<sup>2</sup> [policechiefmagazine.org](http://policechiefmagazine.org)

## Summer Campaigns

The 2016 enforcement and social norming campaign materials for the July Fourth Holiday are now available on the Traffic Safety Marketing website. Click here for campaign materials. [nlelp.org/](http://nlelp.org/)



**NHTSA Impaired Driving Update**  
June 2016  
August 19—September 5  
(Labor Day)

Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over National Drunk Driving Enforcement  
The 2016 national enforcement mobilization “Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over” goes into effect across the country from August 19 to September 5, 2016. [nlelp.org](http://nlelp.org)

## Distracted Driving: An Ongoing Problem

*By Richard J. Ashton, Chief of Police (Retired), Frederick, Maryland; and Grant/Technical Management Manager, IACP*

Simply put, distracted driving is focusing on anything other than driving while driving, and it is contributing to more traffic deaths every year. As a matter of fact, from 1999 to 2008, distracted driving increased from being responsible for 10.9 percent to 15.8 percent of the total number of traffic fatalities in the United States;<sup>1</sup> and in 2010, the lives of 3,092 people were lost in crashes involving distracted drivers.<sup>2</sup> [policechiefmagazine.org](http://policechiefmagazine.org)

## January 1 through June 22, 2016 21 Traffic-related deaths of Police Officers

### Officer Safety Corner: Sovereign Citizens on Traffic Stops

*By Thom Jackson, Captain, Nevada Department of Public Safety/  
Nevada Highway Patrol*

In August 2012, a police officer in Las Vegas stopped a truck for paper license plates that read simply, “Department of Transportation.” During the contact, the woman driving stated repeatedly, “I am not under contract with you” and would not provide a driver’s license, vehicle registration, or proof of insurance. As the officer politely pressed for the documentation required for her to drive legally in Nevada, the woman called someone on the phone and requested specific directions from a male voice at the other end. Through records checks, the officer learned that the truck was in fact properly registered and the woman was properly licensed, but she refused to give those items to the officer. The stop ended peacefully when the officer ticketed the woman for not surrendering her documentation, but encounters with sovereign citizens do not always end so well. [policechiefmagazine.org](http://policechiefmagazine.org)

*Note: Many people in the United States adhere to a sovereign citizen ideology. Most of them do not commit any crimes, and their views are constitutionally protected. This article discusses only the criminal element among the sovereign citizen movement.*

