

# THE MAINE LIAISON



Edition 6

Maine Bureau of Highway Safety

May 2016

## Occupant Protection

### Is Today Your Day?

It struck me as interesting that the reports of the [100+ car pileup](#) in February of 2015 indicate all but one was wearing a seatbelt. The weather was bad so people saw the odds of getting into a crash as higher. Causation aside, everyone was going too fast for the conditions. Fortunately, no one was seriously injured. Winter months, despite the snow, typically have fewer fatal crashes.

Maine has an 85% seat belt compliance so, statistically, the number of unbelted people involved in this crash should have been 15 or so. Maybe, however, this was simply a cluster of people all normally in the 85% group that wears their seatbelt.

Maybe the 15 people who were not wearing seatbelts lied to the investigating officers to avoid a summons. In the confusion who but the individual would recall someone else wearing a belt?

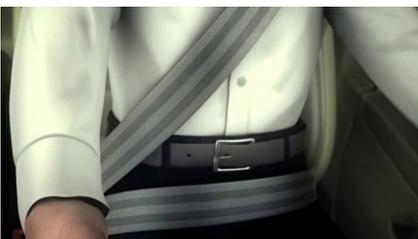
I suspect people got in their cars, considered the weather, anticipated danger, especially at interstate speeds, and decided to buckle up. They thought to themselves - Could this be my day?

How do we convince people that TODAY could be their day?

**Occupant Protection**: In 2014, there were 21,022 occupants of passenger vehicles killed in motor vehicle traffic crashes. Of these 21,022 occupants, 9,958 (51%) were known to be restrained. Looking at only occupants where the restraint status was known, 49 percent were

unrestrained at the time of the crash. Restraint use was not known for 1,679 occupants.

[NHTSA](#)



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# Buckle up - No Excuses

The Maine Child Passenger Safety Program <http://www.maine.gov/dps/bhs/child-passenger-safety/index.shtml> provides a vast array of educational opportunities and services across the State of Maine.

Not all-inclusive, but some of the offerings include:

- National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (<http://www.nhtsa.gov/>) – Car Seat Technician Certification Courses, and Safe Kids Worldwide <http://www.safekids.org/> Technician Certified
- Course Renewal classes for Technicians that have expired and would like an opportunity to reinstate their Certification status
- Booster Seat Curriculum (30 minutes) for Technicians to outreach and coordinate with local elementary schools 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade classrooms
- Technician Mentoring Program for Technicians to work with seasoned Instructors and Technicians
- Car Seat Check Events (Host location, and Bureau sponsored)
- Educational opportunities (i.e., Basic Awareness Trainings for Police Departments (informed traffic stops for accurate and appropriate citations), Licensed Childcare Providers and Non-Licensed Daycare's), State of Maine staff that provide assisted visitations, etc.
- Statewide – Partner Car Seat Distribution locations (by appointment) for income eligible families to receive car seat education and a no-cost car seat
- Statewide – Partner Car Seat Inspection Stations for caregivers to meet with a Certified Technician for car seat education and to have their car seat and/or installation checked
- Technician assistance meeting their necessary requirements to recertify at the end of their 2 year cycle (i.e., car seat signoffs, Continuing Educational Units (CEU's) information, and car seat check events)
- Biennial - Maine CPS Conference, held during National CPS Week in September. The Maine conference offers technicians a comparable experience to a National CPS Conference, such as Kidz in Motion (KIM) conference (<http://kidzinmotion.org/>). The Maine Conference provides technicians with direct access to car seat manufactures regarding industry changes/innovations, speakers from across the nation that specialize in matters concerning safe child transport; researchers, engineers, medical professionals, etc. the conference provides breakout sessions that offer specific information for techs working in law enforcement, fire/ems, and the medical field, as well as general sessions discussing hot topics in the industry. Attending the conference allows the chance for technicians to meet their recertification needs, keep their skill set sharp, and network with other CPS professionals across Maine and the US.

There are approximately 220 technicians statewide, with approximately half of them working as partners with the Bureau of Highway Safety. If your agency would like to certify a staff member, to become a resource to your community and surrounding area, the Bureau holds trainings annually in various areas across the State of Maine.

Bureau of Highway Safety – 2016 – Certification Courses <http://www.maine.gov/dps/bhs/child-passenger-safety/training/course.html> :

Lewiston May 16-19, 2016 – CLASS IS FULL

Machias June 13-16, 2016

Saco July 11-14, 2016

If your agency already has a Certified Technician on staff, and would be interested in becoming a partner, or wanting to hear more about partnering or for more information regarding an aspect of the CPS program, please contact the Maine Bureau of Highway Safety Child Passenger Safety Coordinator [janet.cummings@maine.gov](mailto:janet.cummings@maine.gov) or telephone: 207.626.3848.



Traffic fatalities themselves take a great deal of time & manpower to investigate and triple that if prosecution is involved. Doesn't it make sense to work traffic enforcement rather than to hope for the best?

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[Cruising Through Automotive History from 1878-2016](#)

Learn about some of the great accomplishments and safety advancements of the automobile using NHTSA's interactive time-line. [Read More.](#)



**News Links**

[seacoastonline.com](http://seacoastonline.com)  
[wmtw.com](http://wmtw.com)

## Border to Border kicks off Click it or Ticket



## Maine Welcome Center May 23rd

Agencies from Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts met in support of the 2016 Click it or Ticket kick off event. Motorists entering Maine via several highways from NH were greeted by law enforcement efforts to get everyone to buckle up. No excuses.

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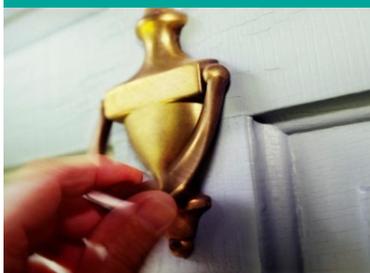
***National Seat Belt Enforcement Mobilization*** – This year's *Click It or Ticket* national seat belt mobilization will take place May 23–June 5, 2016. Passenger vehicle occupants are buckling up more during the day, but not enough at night. A strong enforcement effort is urged between 6 p.m. and 5:59 a.m., due to the significant number of violators and fatal crashes during this time.

[Click It or Ticket campaign materials >>](#)  
[Products for Law Enforcement Action Kit \(PEAK\) >>](#)



## There But For the Grace of God Go I

If you've ever had the assignment of knocking on a door to tell someone a family member has died in a crash then you know you don't want to do it again.



NHTSA  
Data for  
Maine



When we go to a fatal crash we see a life (lives) ended. The scene is kind of like a snapshot of another person's existence. Often it's the only contact we've ever had with the deceased. This may be the person that caused the death or the victim of another. We do our work on scene and thank the almighty that it wasn't our family member in the tangled metal.



Think about this; that deceased person had a life. He/she had a family and plans for the next day. Maybe it was just going to work, Zumba class, or having dinner with a friend. Maybe it was fixing a special school lunch for their child. No one in a fatal crash anticipated that today was going to be their day. If they had they'd have spent the day locked in their own home.

How could you/we have prevented that death? Its too late for this crash, but how about the next?

### Police: Driver in Fatal Belfast Crash Driving at Least 80 mph

BELFAST, Maine — The driver in a [car crash that left one man dead and three people injured](#) on May 14 may have been traveling at nearly twice the speed limit, according to a police accident report.

Passenger, *age 19*, of Searsport was ejected from the backseat and suffered a fatal head injury. *Passenger*, *age 23*, was sitting on the passenger's side and was partially ejected from the car. Neither were wearing seat belts, according to the police report. *The driver* broke bones and suffered other injuries serious enough for her to be taken to Eastern Maine Medical Center.

ARIDE is coming to Somerset County

July 11 & 12, 2016

Contact Jim Lyman at the MCJA for details

**ARIDE**

Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement



## Benefits of Traffic Enforcement

Traffic enforcement is a means to many ends. If you don't think it will advance your career you are mistaken.

The results of focused enforcement activities:

- Fewer crashes and investigations - The underlying goal of traffic enforcement. (less crash reports)
- Experience - With every stop comes a potential criminal investigation, traffic related or criminal. Bad people are mobile. You will learn how to do your job in many aspects.
- Crime reduction - When you work traffic in high crime areas the community feeling is that there are cops everywhere, criminals move to other areas.
- Drug interdiction - No one is flying the drugs into your community. They are coming in by vehicle. Missed the drugs on the way in? Then seize the cash legally on the way out! That'll make your chief happy.
- Firearms - Just as mobile. Pay attention to our new laws



Traffic enforcement is dangerous work. The potential for advanced police work is great. Don't wait for criminal activity to fall into your lap - go seize it.

MAINE

BUREAU

OF

HIGHWAY

SAFETY

[www.maine.gov/dps/bhs](http://www.maine.gov/dps/bhs)

ALL GAVE SOME

SOME GAVE ALL

[Trooper Struck at Turnpike Traffic Stop; SUV Fled the Scene](#)

[Illinois State Police officer injured by suspected drunk driver](#)

[Ronald Tarentino, Jr. Auburn PD Massachusetts](#)

[End of Watch: Sunday, May 22, 2016](#)

[Auburn man gets 8 years for illegal gun possession](#)

[Three arrested on drug charges in Litchfield](#)

[Police: Man Hid Drugs in Underwear, Then in Cruiser](#)

[Brunswick traffic stop yields drug arrest](#)

[Police arrest 2 for drugs, weapons after traffic stop](#)

[Police: Traffic stop with lawnmower driver ends in drugs charges](#)



Maine: Recently hosted an **Impaired Driving Summit** in partnership with AAA Northern New England in Portland on May 16. The summit brought together subject matter experts, law enforcement, legislators, administrators, judicial, educators, health care and traffic safety professionals to discuss collaborative solutions to combat impaired driving. The next summit is July 17th in Bangor.



**NHTSA**  
**Motor Vehicle**  
**Occupant**  
**Protection**  
**Facts**

## Occupant Protection and Distracted Driving Update

April 2016

Maria E. Vegega v Chief, NHTSA Occupant Protection Division

NHTSA recently updated its online information regarding seat belt use by expectant mothers, who are sometimes unsure about whether and how to use seat belts. The online flyer, entitled, If You're Pregnant: Seat Belt Recommendations for Drivers and Passengers, includes updated information and guidance for pregnant women to properly use seat belts to protect themselves and their unborn babies in the event of a crash or sudden braking.

The flyer also includes two new NHTSA recommendations:

- Rather than advising expectant mothers to keep 6" away from the steering wheel, NHTSA now recommends pregnant drivers "keep as far away as possible" from the steering wheel. and
- We now advise pregnant women to see their physician if they have been involved in a crash as a driver or passenger, regardless of whether or not they think they may have been injured.

Over the years, WIC centers, health clinics, OB-GYN practices and other venues that treat pregnant women and young children have been particularly receptive to and interested in this information. We encourage advocates to partner with these entities to spread the message that pregnant women should always buckle up!

[www.safercar.gov](http://www.safercar.gov)

## Child Passenger Safety

NHTSA Releases Updated Motor Vehicle Occupant Protection Facts (Children/Youth/Young Adults) [DOT HS 812 215]

This booklet has been updated from the most recent edition (2008), and features occupant protection data and facts about children (newborns to age 7), youth (8 to 15 years old), and young adults 16 to 20. It has three sections: general information on the need for and importance of promoting occupant restraint use for children, youth, and young adults; occupant protection facts specific to children and youth, and facts for and about young adults; and findings from NHTSA's Motor Vehicle Occupant Safety Surveys on self-reported behavior, attitudes, and opinions about seat belt use and laws. To review the publication, please visit [NHTSA](http://NHTSA)

**DRIVE SOBER**



**MAINE**



**Accidents**

**are**

**Accidents...**

**Crashes**

**are**

**Crashes.**

## "Day Two" Impaired Driving Summit



**July 13, 2016  
8:00-3:30  
Bangor Maine  
Husson University  
Gracie Theatre**

**8:00-12:00**

### **Processing a DWI Crash Scene -**

**Presented by John Kwasnoski**

*DWI crash scene tips and investigative activities that defeat faux defenses. Includes hands-on exercises to challenge participants' assessment of proof of operation, speed analysis and other issues of negligence and help develop best practices and policies for prosecuting motor vehicle crash cases.*

**1:00-2:00**

### **Commercial Motor Vehicle Impaired Driving Enforcement-**

*Overview of 49 CFR as used by Commercial Motor Vehicle Troopers to enforce drugs and/or alcohol rules - Presented by Maine State Police*

**2:00-3:30**

### **Recreational Marijuana Legalization -**

*Consequences for Prosecutors & Law Enforcement - Presented by Aaron Turcotte, Maine State Police, Scot Mattox TSRP MEBHS, Tom Reagan LEL MEBHS*

To Register Please Visit <https://goo.gl/CQr3SO>

For More Info Contact:

Dan Goodman @ [goodman.daniel@nne.aaa.com](mailto:goodman.daniel@nne.aaa.com)

