Buckle Up South Carolina campaign emphasizes nighttime safety belt use

SCDPS recently kicked off the Buckle Up South Carolina campaign with nighttime safety belt enforcement as the emphasis. The goal of this campaign was to educate the public about the increase of unbelted occupants dying after dark.

Preliminary statistics for 2012 show nearly 64 percent of motorists killed at night were unbuckled at the time of the crash compared to 49 percent who were unrestrained and killed during daytime crashes.

“While daytime safety belt compliance continues to improve, a pocket of the population still fails to buckle up at night, leading to more nighttime highway deaths,” Director Leroy Smith said.

From May 20 to June 2, SCDPS and local law enforcement agencies increased enforcement of South Carolina's primary safety belt law as part of the Buckle Up South Carolina safety belt enforcement mobilization. SCDPS holds a specific emphasis on safety belt education and enforcement during its May BUSC campaign each year.

Radio and television public service announcements aired in addition to proactive enforcement efforts.

Even though the focus of the two-week 2013 BUSC campaign is nighttime enforcement, the agency has emphasized that officers enforce the state's safety belt law day and night.
Message from Director Leroy Smith

TEAM DPS: I would like to say that our hectic spring is behind us and we are on the downhill slide. In many ways we are. However, on the law enforcement side we are gearing up for what promises to be one of the busiest seasons of the year -- summer travel.

We are still in the midst of the budget debate in the Legislature. I am optimistic about our prospects of additional funding to help us meet critical needs. We are fortunate to continue to have the support of our friends in the Legislature and the Governor’s Office who understand that -- plain and simple, we save lives at this agency every day. We are counting on their continued funding support to keep us in a good position to hire, train and retain the very best for our ranks.

I am very excited about our Target Zero concept. We have now officially begun to incorporate that into all of our safety messaging and communications -- both internally and externally. Target Zero is important because it is a reminder for us all of what our mission truly is. Regardless of how a day or a week may go, every day is a fresh start. We have been fortunate this year to see fatalities decline even in the face of challenges with trooper strength and a busy Spring when we were stretched thin with Bike Weeks and other challenges.

Over Memorial Day, we did not see the fatality reduction we had hoped for. But my message to our staff -- both uniform and non-uniform -- is that tomorrow is a new day and we will continue the fight every single day we are here... because one life lost on our highways is one too many. It is important to remember that we cannot be discouraged when we fall short of our goals. I know this is hard because our goals translate into lives being saved. We must constantly reassess and go back out there and keep fighting to make our roads safer.

The victories we have experienced this Spring have been amazing. We underwent a very successful re-accreditation process. See story below. This was due in large part to your cooperation with Maj. Moore and Ms. Vickie Wise as they sought to prepare us for the on-site assessment. They did an outstanding job in a short amount of time.

We saw another trooper class take to the streets in January. We saw some of our heroes recognized this spring as we introduced the Purple Heart and Medal of Valor awards. We held our first annual Spring Memorial Ceremony on the grounds in front of the Highway Patrol Memorial Wall. STP, BPS and Highway Patrol held Trooper/Officer of the Year ceremonies honoring our heroes -- the men and women who represent us so well each day. The Immigration Enforcement Unit held multiple trainings for law enforcement and others. As you can see, the newsletter is chock full of the outstanding work being done all over this agency day in and day out.

But I have one request, don’t let the lazy days of summer cause you to let down your guard. Summer is a time when we naturally tend to take a breather, but I want to challenge you going into the second half of this year. Take your much-deserved vacations and time to recharge, but come back strong and be ready to do all it takes to keep us on track with fatality reduction.

I know we are all being asked to do more with less in lean budget times, but please join us in this agency-wide mission to think of our jobs a little differently. Please remember how much I appreciate all that you do, and your efforts are truly making a difference.

DPS Undergoes Accreditation Review by CALEA

The South Carolina Department of Public Safety (DPS) went through an on-site assessment April 27-30 as part of a program to achieve re-accreditation by verifying internationally recognized professional standards.

Administered by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA), the accreditation program requires agencies to comply with state-of-the-art standards in four basic areas: policy and procedures, administration, operations and support services.

The men and women of DPS represented us very well during the on-site assessment and the assessors have recommended DPS receive re-accreditation status.
State Transport Police Names Top Employees for 2012

William T. Bronson Named STP Officer of the Year

The South Carolina State Transport Police (STP) held a ceremony May 3, 2013 to recognize its top employees for 2012.

The awards honor STP employees throughout the state for outstanding achievement in enforcing commercial motor vehicle laws and keeping the roadways safe. The awards are based on employees’ performance in areas such as enforcement, commercial motor vehicle safety, out-of-service violations and overall work ethic. One winner from each district was chosen as well as a civilian employee from STP’s headquarters in Blythewood.

S/O William “Billy” Bronson, District Six, was named 2012 State Transport Police Officer of the Year.

Bronson has been with STP since 2010 and is assigned to District Six, which covers Berkeley, Calhoun, Charleston, Clarendon, Dorchester and Orangeburg counties.

Col. Taylor and his supervisors said Bronson always has a strong work ethic and comes to work each day with a positive attitude. He takes pride in his work, his uniform and his passion to save lives. He constantly produces exceptional activity and works with very minimal supervision. In addition, he was named the South Carolina Grand Champion in the annual Federal Inspector’s Challenge for 2012 and 2013. In his off-time he serves as a representative for the Special Olympics and is heavily involved in their campaigns.

Officer of the Year Winners:
- District 1 (Aiken, Kershaw, Lee, Lexington, Richland and Sumter counties): Ofc. Thomas S. Starling
- District 2 (Abbeville, Edgefield, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, Newberry and Saluda counties): S/O Christopher Wagner
- District 3 (Anderson, Greenville, Oconee, Pickens and Spartanburg counties): L/Cpl. Robert B. Cooper
- District 4 (Cheerokee, Chester, Chesterfield, Fairfield, Lancaster, Union and York counties): Ofc. Stephen P. Holmes
- District 5 (Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Georgetown, Horry, Marion, Marlboro and Williamsburg counties): S/O Charles T. Norton
- District 6 (Berkeley, Calhoun, Charleston, Clarendon, Dorchester and Orangeburg counties): S/O William “Billy” T. Bronson
- District 7 (Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton and Jasper counties): S/O Jody P. Neuroth

Overall Officer of the Year
- District 6 (Berkeley, Calhoun, Charleston, Clarendon, Dorchester and Orangeburg counties): S/O William “Billy” T. Bronson
- HQ: CMV Statistician and Administrative Assistant LaShaune N. Smith (below)
Purple Heart, Medal of Valor, and HP Hero Recipients

The Department of Public Safety created the Purple Heart Award this year. It is given to members of the department who have been seriously injured or wounded during the course of their duties.

“Awarding the Purple Heart is a small gesture from the department for their sacrifices in the line of duty,” said SCDPS Director Leroy Smith. “We want them to know that we recognize their courage, their commitment and the inherent dangers of wearing this uniform.”

**TFC Howard F. James, Jr.**

On July 20, 2012, Trooper First Class Howard F. James, Jr. was investigating a collision on I-26 near mile marker 142 in Orangeburg County. James had positioned his patrol car behind two vehicles that were involved in a minor collision in the median. While he was outside his vehicle, speaking to the victims in the collision, a vehicle ran off the roadway, striking the rear of James’ patrol car. This caused the vehicle to strike James, sending him in the air and forcing his body into one of the vehicles involved in the collision. James was taken to Palmetto Richland Hospital by helicopter. James suffered a serious head injury and spent three days in ICU and a total of seven days in the hospital. On September 10, 2012, TFC James returned to full duty continuing his dedicated work ethic.

**L/Cpl. Robert Falls, Jr.**

On July 11, 2012, at 11:59 pm, while on duty in Troop One Post A (Sumter/Clarendon), Lance Corporal Robert M. Falls, Jr. responded to assist the Sumter County Sheriff’s Department with a domestic disturbance call, which came from a moving vehicle. The weather at the time of the collision was rainy and roads were wet. As L/Cpl. Falls entered a curve, his vehicle left the roadway, striking a ditch and embankment and then spun around and struck a tree. L/Cpl. Falls received very serious injuries as a result of this collision. He was transported to Palmetto Richland Hospital where he was in the Intensive Care Unit for several days. Lance Corporal Falls made great strides in his recovery. He remained positive and was determined to return to duty. Unfortunately, his injuries were too severe and forced him to retire from the job he loved.

**L/Cpl. Kristopher K. Bratcher**

On March 12, 2012 around 4 a.m., L/Cpl. Kristopher K. Bratcher of Troop Three, Post A (Anderson) observed a motorcycle traveling 106 mph in a posted 45 mph zone on SC-153 in Anderson County. L/Cpl. Bratcher attempted to make a lawful stop on the motorcycle. The motorcycle disregarded the stop and L/Cpl. Bratcher initiated a pursuit with the motorcycle. The pursuit continued into Pickens County on Brushy Creek Road. L/Cpl. Bratcher lost control of his patrol vehicle, left the roadway and struck a large tree with the right side of his patrol vehicle. The patrol vehicle came to rest on its top, down an embankment and erupted into flames. Three Easley Police Officers were nearby and were successful in pulling L/Cpl. Bratcher from the burning vehicle. L/Cpl. Bratcher was airlifted to Greenville Memorial Hospital. The patrol vehicle was totally destroyed in the fire. The motorcyclist still has not been identified. L/Cpl. Bratcher endured many surgeries and a long stay in the hospital, being treated for multiple burns and fractures. L/Cpl. Bratcher was released to full duty on March 4, 2013. It’s admirable that L/Cpl. Bratcher managed to start down the path of healing and overcame the trauma of this experience. L/Cpl. Bratcher stands as a strong example of perseverance in the face of seemingly overwhelming odds.
L/Cpl. Michael D. Looney, Medal of Valor
On November 14, 2012, L/Cpl. Looney received a BOLO that an armed robbery had just occurred near Clemson Blvd. in Anderson County. Almost immediately he noticed a vehicle that looked like the one dispatch described traveling from the area that the robbery occurred. As he attempted to stop the vehicle, the vehicle accelerated and a pursuit ensued. The passenger in the fleeing vehicle leaned from the window and fired three rounds from a shotgun towards Looney. The pursuit ended shortly after when the violator was forcibly stopped and arrested.

Since the arrest, the suspect also confessed to robbing another store. Therefore, L/Cpl. Looney was credited for helping solve two crimes.

S/Tpr. Brandon O. Stokes, Medal of Valor
On July 14, 2012, S/Tpr. Stokes attempted to stop a motorist for speeding and a lane change violation in Sumter County. He noticed that the driver was possibly under the influence of alcohol. Once he completed a field sobriety test and confirmed the driver was under the influence, he attempted to arrest the violator. The violator began to resist arrest and a physical altercation ensued. In fear of his life, S/Tpr. Stokes discharged his firearm twice, killing the suspect. After four months of administrative leave, S/Tpr. Stokes was cleared of the shooting incident, he immediately returned to proactive enforcement and dedication to stringent DUI enforcement.

S/Tpr. Sean M. Groubert and TFC J.W. Tompkins, Medals of Valor
On August 14, 2012, at 8:16 am, S/Tpr. Sean M. Groubert initiated a traffic stop on a subject for speeding. As he approached the vehicle, he detected a strong odor of marijuana. After a few minutes of conversation the subject then put his vehicle in gear and sped off, causing S/Tpr. Groubert to begin his pursuit. TFC J. W. Tompkins joined the pursuit which ended at the Wells Fargo Bank in Five Points when the subject jumped from his vehicle, shooting at Groubert and Tompkins as he ran toward the bank. S/Tpr. Groubert and TFC Tompkins returned fire, striking the subject as he was attempting to gain entry into the bank. These troopers maintained their composure during the pursuit and the terrifying shootout that followed. They protected – not only their own lives – but those of the bank employees as well.

Charlie Bishop and Brett Blanks, Highway Patrol Hero Awards
SCHP Col. Mike Oliver gave the "Highway Patrol Hero Award" to two private citizens who went out of their way to help preserve public safety. Charlie Bishop and Brett Blanks of Lexington were honored for helping apprehend the suspect who struck and killed an SCDOT worker on I-26 in Lexington last December.
Memorial Honors Fallen SC Highway Patrol Troopers

Troopers who have died in the line of duty were honored in a ceremony on the grounds at headquarters near the monument on April 26. The ceremony is typically held during the Fall, but once the monument was completed last year, SCHP wanted to move the ceremony to coincide with nationwide ceremonies honoring the fallen in May.
Officers, Agencies Honored for DUI Enforcement Efforts

The SC Department of Public Safety (SCDPS) recognized law enforcement officers and agencies on April 3 for their efforts in 2012 to enforce the state’s DUI laws and remove impaired drivers from South Carolina roadways. SCDPS presented awards to officers and agencies in several categories and held drawings for agencies to win equipment and vehicles during the 8th Annual DUI Enforcement Recognition and 2012 Law Enforcement DUI Challenge Ceremonies.

Officer of the Year (five categories based on size of agency):
• 1-10 Officers: Chief Franco Fuda, Bonneau Police Department, 41 DUI arrests
• 11-25 Officers: Sgt. Kyle Snelgrove, Fountain Inn Police Department, 13 DUI arrests
• 26-50 Officers: Patrolman Marvin Tabb-Walker, Beaufort City Police Department, 23 DUI arrests
• 51-100 Officers: Deputy Jamie C. M. Lui, Darlington County Sheriff’s Office, 46 DUI arrests
• 101 Or More Officers: Deputy Jonathon Jackson, Greenville County Sheriff’s Office, 152 DUI arrests

Rookie of the Year:
• Patrolman Tony Wages, Camden Police Department, nine DUI arrests

Highway Patrol Trooper of the Year:
• L/Cpl. Jeffrey L. Fortner/Troop 7 (Calhoun, Orangeburg, Bamberg, Aiken, Barnwell, Allendale and Hampton counties), 109 DUI arrests

Highway Patrol Troop of the Year:
• Troop 5 (Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Georgetown, Horry, Marlboro, Marion and Williamsburg counties), 3,678 DUI arrests

State Transport Police District of the Year:
• State Transport Police, District 3 (Anderson, Greenville, Oconee, Pickens and Spartanburg counties), 10 DUI arrests

Agency of the Year (five categories based on size of agency):
• 1-10 Officers: Bonneau Police Department, 53 DUI arrests
• 11-25 Officers: Darlington City Police Department, 129 DUI arrests
• 26-50 Officers: Mauldin Police Department, 164 DUI arrests
• 51-100 Officers: Kershaw County Sheriff’s Office, 125 DUI arrests
• 101 Or More Officers: Greenville County Sheriff’s Office, 750 DUI arrests

Police Vehicles
During a live drawing in the 2012 Law Enforcement DUI Challenge segment of the program, two agencies each won a fully equipped law enforcement vehicle:
• Union County Sheriff’s Office
• Florence County Sheriff’s Office

For a complete list of award winners or to view the full photo gallery, go to: http://www.scdps.gov/oea/nr2013/040313.htm#OfficeroftheYear.
South Carolina Special Olympics 1st Annual Polar Plunge
“Freezin’ For A Reason”
State Transport Police helped organize the The Special Olympics Polar Plunge on February 16, 2013. This event is a fundraising effort organized by law enforcement agencies across the state to benefit South Carolina Special Olympics. The plunge gives individuals, organizations and businesses the chance to support South Carolina Special Olympics by collecting pledges for the “opportunity” to plunge into Lake Murray’s frigid waters.

Did You Know?
In 1962, President John F. Kennedy signed a proclamation which designated May 15th as Peace Officers’ Memorial Day and the week in which that date falls as “Police Week.” Since then, tens of thousands of law enforcement officers from around the world converge in Washington, DC, to participate in a number of planned events which honor those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice.

The National Police Memorial Service was held in Washington D.C. on Sunday, May 12, 2013.

STP Promotions
State Transport Police promoted five officers at the May 2 DPS Promotions Ceremony.

Corporal Christopher C. McKellar – District One
Corporal Ronald A. Heitzenrater – District Two
Corporal Lee T. Catoe – District Four
Corporal Cassandra A. Dollard – District Six
Corporal Brian K. Freeman – District Seven

got news?
This newsletter was designed and produced by the SCDPS Communications Office. If your division has news to be included in the upcoming newsletter, contact Christina Johnson at ChristinaJohnson@scdps.gov or call (803) 896-0708.
Memorial Service Held for Highway Fatalities

The Office of Highway Safety and Justice Programs held its annual memorial service April 27, 2013 for the more than 860 people killed on South Carolina roadways in 2012. The service has been held every year since 1988. The ceremony was held at Northside Baptist Church in Lexington. SCDPS continually tries to reduce highway fatalities through safety education and proactive enforcement. The Highway Patrol Families of Highway Fatalities program offers resources to families suffering this terrible loss.

Highway Patrol Changes

The Highway Patrol recently announced several changes including the addition of the Administrative and Regulatory Compliance Unit, which will be run by Capt. Brad Hughes. Capt. Bobby J. Albert, promoted to command Troop 4; Capt. A.K. Grice, promoted to command Troop 7; Capt. C.T. Stephens, will command Troop 1.

From left to right: Lt. Col. Christopher Williamson, Capt. Brad Hughes, Capt. Bobby J. Albert, promoted to command Troop 4; Capt. A.K. Grice, promoted to command Troop 7; Capt. C.T. Stephens to command Troop 1; Col. Mike Oliver.
Upcoming Events

June 4-6, 2013
STP Road Check

June 5, 2013
IEU/Human Trafficking Training

June 5, 2013 | 7:30 a.m. | $15
Worksite Health Screening
Troop 1 Headquarters

June 17, 2013
FHF Peer Social - Cookout,
Horseshoes & Pool Party
Lexington, SC

June 28, 2013 | 2:00 p.m.
SCHP Graduation

July 4-6, 2013
Goldwing Riders Rally
Greenville, SC

July 6, 2013
Blowfish State Employee Night
Dunk a Cop benefiting Special Olympics
Blowfish Stadium

National Public Safety Telecommunications Week: April 14-20, 2013

April 14-20, 2013 was designated as National Public Safety Telecommunications Week in order to honor and recognize the thousands of men and women who serve at the various law enforcement and public safety communications centers around the country. National Public Safety Telecommunications Week enhances public awareness and promotes education regarding important public safety issues and legislation. This designation places national attention on the unsung heroes who help save countless lives by responding to emergency calls, dispatching emergency professionals and equipment, and providing moral support to citizens in distress. The job of a telecommunications operator has moved well beyond the days when they were called “dispatchers” to a professional group of individuals that must receive extensive training in complex voice and data communications systems and applications.

To all of our telecommunications staff, thank you for a job well done!

“Move Beyond the Stress Mess” Lunch & Learn

The Health and Wellness Committee welcomed Ramsey Makhuli from Prevention Partners on April 18, 2013. DPS staff learned about the effects of stress and even learned some stress relief exercises.
SCDPS and Local SUBWAY® Restaurants Host W8 2 TXT Wednesdays
Events Offer Free Safe Driving Demo, Wristbands and Subs

The Highway Patrol and SUBWAY® Restaurants teamed up for a second year to try to save the lives of teen drivers, encouraging them to W8 2 TXT. During March and April, high school students were asked to take the online pledge to wait until they were not behind the wheel to text. The winning schools were based on the highest percentage of student pledges for the area. Those schools received a $500 grant for safety programs courtesy of SUBWAY® restaurants.

SCDPS and SUBWAY® restaurants concluded the W8 2 TXT campaign in April, National Distracted Driving Awareness Month. During the campaign, The Highway Patrol estimates approximately 25,000 students have heard the W8 2 TXT message as Community Relations Officers canvassed the state with Prom/W8 2 TXT safety presentations. This was the second year that SCDPS and Subway partnered to keep students safe with the W8 2 TXT message.

“We are grateful for Subway’s partnership with us again on this life-saving campaign,” said Col. Oliver. “Teens often don’t realize just how dangerous distraction behind the wheel can be. As we head into the summer driving season, we want to do all we can to get this life-saving message to teen drivers and passengers as well as their parents.”

Winning schools with the highest percentage of students who took the W8 2 TXT pledge in the six regions were:

- Upstate – Greenwood Christian School in Greenwood;
- Rock Hill/Charlotte – Central Academy at Lake Park in Indian Trail, N.C.;
- Midlands – Gilbert High School in Gilbert;
- Pee Dee/Grand Strand – Lake City High School in Lake City;
- Lowcountry – Pinewood Preparatory School in Summerville; and
- Aiken/Augusta – Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School in Bamberg.

Participating SUBWAY® restaurants and troopers throughout the Carolinas also distributed over 280,000 wristbands with the W8 2 TXT message printed on them. Students could choose to wear the wristband or stretch it across their phones as a reminder not to text while driving. According to a Virginia Tech Transportation Institute Study, drivers who send text messages while driving are 23 times more likely to crash.

“We are grateful to the troopers and high schools that devoted valuable time to share the important ‘wait to text’ message, and to the South Carolina families who told students about the real-life impact of distracted driving. We also congratulate the students for their commitment to driver safety. If we can save one life, it will be worth it,” said Ali Saifi, President/CEO of Subway Development Corporation of SC, Inc.

LOOK campaign runs through September

SCDPS has begun a series of billboards throughout the state aimed at protecting the roads’ most vulnerable users: motorcyclists, moped riders, bicyclists and pedestrians. The outreach effort will continue through September. Vulnerable roadway user deaths have continually climbed in recent years. This year, however, that group of roadway users accounts for an overall decline in highway fatalities. Troopers will continue pushing the LOOK message throughout the year.
SCHP Honors Outstanding Work of Troopers, Telecommunications Personnel for 2012

On March 28, 2013 the Highway Patrol, joined by Director Smith, recognized valor, attention to detail and overall outstanding work ethic for the men and women who make up the Highway Patrol. Troopers and TCOs from each area of the state were honored and an overall winner was chosen from that group.
Florence Trooper William A. McInville Named SC Highway Patrol Trooper of the Year

Senior Trooper William A. McInville of Florence was named the South Carolina Highway Patrol Trooper of the Year at a ceremony on March 8, 2013. McInville was chosen from among winners representing 10 Troops or Units within the Highway Patrol.

“Today was a great day at the SC Department of Public Safety and a great day for the State of South Carolina when we said thank you to our heroes,” said SCDPS Director Leroy Smith. “This outstanding group of troopers represents the best of the best, displaying courage and valor under extraordinary circumstances. I believe everyone would agree, however, that S/Tpr. McInville’s act of saving a child’s life truly made him deserving of the top honor today.”

S/Tpr. McInville joined the Highway Patrol in January 2010 and is assigned to Dillon, Florence and Marion counties.

On June 3, 2012, S/Tpr. McInville conducted a traffic stop after a vehicle disregarded a stop light on U.S. 52 North at Cashua Drive, nearly causing a collision. The female driver exited the vehicle with a 2-year-old child who was not breathing. The mother of the child was calling for help and placed the child in McInville’s care. After calling for an ambulance, S/Tpr. McInville began to perform CPR on the child. After several abdominal thrusts, the child spit out a piece of candy, which had caused him to choke.

“When the mother ran from the vehicle, Trooper McInville had no idea what had happened,” said Col. Oliver. “He calmly assessed the situation, repeatedly warned the parents to be careful of the traffic around them and was able to resuscitate the child. Troopers never know what to expect on their shift, but Trooper McInville drew on his training and his experience to save a life. This act is not the exception for Trooper McInville but highlights his overall work ethic and compassion for others.”

The child was taken to a local hospital and was released the following day. A physician from the hospital later called S/Tpr. McInville to commend him for his heroic assistance. The physician also stated that — in his opinion — the child would not have survived or would have at least suffered brain damage considering the time it would have taken to get to the hospital.

Before joining the Highway Patrol, McInville worked at the Florence Police Department, the City of Florence Fire Department and the Timmonsville Rescue Squad. He is married and has one child.
BPS Announces 2012 Officer of the Year


Sgt. Dwayne Brunson receives Chief’s Award

Sgt. Dwayne Brunson (center) with Director Smith (left) and Chief Zack Wise (right) was announced as the 2012 recipient of the Chief’s Award. The award is given to individuals who show tenacity and outstanding leadership in their field.
State Transport Police Holds 2013 Commercial Vehicle Safety Fair

The South Carolina State Transport Police held its first ever Commercial Vehicle Safety Fair in April. The goal of this Safety Fair was to change driver and carrier behavior through education and resource sharing regarding Commercial Motor Vehicle laws and regulations and how to safely interact with CMVs on the roadway.

The Safety Fair was held at the South Carolina Farmers Market in West Columbia. The State Transport Police held this CMV Safety Fair in partnership with the South Carolina Trucking Association, the South Carolina Department of Transportation, the South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles, the Federal Motor Carrier Administration and South Carolina Farm Bureau.

The CMV Safety Fair was a free event for all attendees of the Commercial Motor Vehicle industry including owners, operators, mechanics, safety managers, dispatchers, and the general public who might want to learn a little more about how to be safe and drive safely around commercial vehicles.

Participants had a chance to attend sessions held by State Transport Police Officers and Compliance Review Agents as well as Federal Motor Carrier Agents.

In these sessions the officers and agents discussed all aspects of CMV rules and regulations as well as state laws pertaining to commercial vehicles. Sessions included an overview of the State Transport Police (how and why they regulate CMV rules and regulations) and the Federal Motor Carrier Regulations, The Standard Level I Safety Inspection, Transporting Hazardous Materials and Cargo Tanks, Operating a Motorcoach or Bus, Compliance Review (Safety Audits), Safe Load Securement and Size and Weight Laws and Procedures. In each session the officers and agents held a discussion on the subject matter and then performed hands on demonstrations.

Afterwards attendees were able to ask questions and spend time with these officials. There were also demonstrations for the general public including a No-Zone demonstration held by the American Truckers Association and State Transport Police to demonstrate how to safely operate a vehicle around a commercial vehicle. It demonstrated the natural blind spots on a tractor trailer as well as proper following and stopping distances.

The SC Highway Patrol had a DUI demonstration with their golf cart and DUI goggles. This demonstration leads drivers through a course with goggles that simulate what an intoxicated driver’s perspective may be. These folks also had a chance to “walk the line” to demonstrate a field sobriety test commonly given to suspected drunk drivers.

SCDOT officials discussed Oversize/Overweight Permits. SCDMV officials were available to discuss proper licensing for CDL drivers and CMV vehicles. Other booths included insurance opportunities for the trucking industry, safety equipment, and safety consultants.

The State Transport Police plans to have similar CMV Safety Fairs in several regions throughout the state and make the Columbia one an annual event.
The State Transport Police won the Colonel’s Cup Softball tournament on April 10, 2013. The softball tournament raised more than $9,000 to benefit the Special Olympics and included teams from SC Highway Patrol Troops and State Transport Police. All money raised goes to support Special Olympics in SC.

**Colonel’s Cup Softball Tournament Benefits Special Olympics**

The State Transport Police won the Colonel’s Cup Softball tournament on April 10, 2013. The softball tournament raised more than $9,000 to benefit the Special Olympics and included teams from SC Highway Patrol Troops and State Transport Police. All money raised goes to support Special Olympics in SC.

**ABOVE:** Col. Mike Oliver presents STP Col. Leroy Taylor with the winning team Colonel’s Cup trophy.

**BELOW:** Lt. Col. Williamson with a few of the Special Olympics children.
South Carolina Law Enforcement Officers Promote Awareness for Special Olympics

Law Enforcement Officers from Troop Six participated in a run on March 1, 2013, to promote awareness for Special Olympics. “The Flame of Hope” torch was carried by Law Enforcement Torch Run Officers and Special Olympics Athletes as they gathered as a group and followed a 2.3 mile course from Brittlebank Park to the Citadel. Participants ran to the Citadel to take part in the Opening Ceremonies of the Mid-Winter Games.

The Mid-Winter Games is a Statewide Special Olympics event that attracts 1,000 athletes, 250 coaches, partners, families and 1,000 volunteers. Athletes and partners competed in Masters Bowling, Badminton, Basketball Skills, Basketball Team Play, Power Lifting, Disc Golf, Unified Bowling, and Young Athletes events throughout the weekend.

RIGHT: S/Tpr. B. Wyant carries the “Flame of Hope”

5 Points Chick-Fil-A and Law Enforcement Torch Run raised $7,652.64 for South Carolina Special Olympics athletes!
Health Screenings Offered in May, June

DPS hosted a worksite screening for all employees, retirees, and spouses covered by the State Health Plan/Blue Choice on May 23, 2013. The screening, a $350 value, was made available for only a $15 co-payment. Another worksite screening will be held on June 5 at Troop One Headquarters.

**Screening Components**

- Health risk appraisal - A complete wellness profile
- Lipid profile - Total cholesterol, LDL, HDL, and Triglycerides
- Chemistry profile - Blood Urea Nitrogen (BUN) and creatinine, Glucose, Electrolytes, Chloride and Bicarbonate
- Hemogram - Red and white blood cell count, Hemoglobin, and Hematocrit
- Also includes Blood Pressure, Height and Weight

**Terms and Conditions**

- There is a 12-hour fast prior to your screening (you may have water and any required medications you may be taking).
- Participants are required to complete all components of this health screening. This includes height, weight, blood pressure, blood draw, and paperwork.
- Please bring your insurance card with you on the day of the screening. Your insurance card ID number will be required when filling out paperwork.
- Insurance allows for ONE Prevention Partners screening per calendar year (January-December).
- Spouses covered by eligible employees and retirees can participate for a $15 co-payment.
- Dependent children are not eligible to participate.
- If Medicare or Tri-care is your primary insurance, you are not eligible to participate.

If you were unable to attend the worksite screening in Blythewood, SC on May 23, we will also be hosting a screening at the Highway Patrol Troop 1 Headquarters in Columbia, SC on June 5. Please contact Alex Wilcox (AlexWilcox@SCDPS.gov) if you are interested in attending this screening or if you have any other questions or concerns.

Deferred Compensation Seminar to be Held in July

The SC Deferred Compensation Program is one of the most important benefits available to public employees. The Program offers both pre tax and after tax (Roth) options to save taxes and plan for retirement. Nancy Ornduff will be here on July 18th at 2:00 p.m. for an onsite seminar to discuss and explain benefits and features of the SCDCP.

The seminar will be held at Blythewood Headquarters in the CG-44 training room and will last approximately one hour depending on questions. Nancy will be available after the group presentation to answer individual questions and help with enrollment forms.

If you plan to attend, please RSVP to Christy Herb at christeenherb@scdps.gov.
Active Shooter Training Wraps Up

The active shooter training conducted by SCDPS Training is winding down. The training, which has been widely covered in media stories throughout the Spring, trains troopers to assist local agencies in the event of an active shooter situation. The Training Unit was responsible for training troopers and officers from Bureau of Protective Services, SC Highway Patrol and State Transport Police officers. A group of officers from the SC Department of Corrections also participated in the training. The training wrapped up in May.

State Transport Police Challenge

The State Transport Police held its annual Federal Inspector’s Challenge at the Airport Campus of Midlands Tech April 19-21. Eight officers competed in three areas: Motor Coach Inspection, Level I Inspection, and HazMat Inspection for a chance to represent South Carolina at the national competition. S/O W.T. Bronson-District Six, Motor Coach Inspection Champion, was announced as the Grand Champion and will compete at nationals. A full list of winners is below.

- **Grand Champion**: S/O W.T. Bronson, District Six
- **Motor Coach Inspection Champion**: S/O W.T. Bronson, District Six
- **Level I Inspector Champion**: S/O J. P. Neuroth, District Seven
- **HazMat Inspection Champion**: L/Cpl. B.D. Weathers-District Two

Scholarship Opportunities

Did you know that state employees who are attending school can apply for scholarship opportunities from the Ann A. Agnew Scholarship Fund, which is administered through the S.C. State Employees Association?

For more information, visit: www.SCSEA.com
SC Housing Salutes “Palmetto Heroes” with 3% Mortgage Rate Offer

Special Homebuyer Program Makes $7.7M Available for Loans and Down Payment Assistance

The South Carolina State Housing Finance and Development Authority (SC Housing) announced it is once again making funds available to help South Carolina’s heroes -- law enforcement officers, correctional officers, teachers, firefighters, nurses, veterans and EMS personnel - that want to become homeowners. The 2013 Palmetto Heroes Program, a $7.7 million initiative, offers qualified homebuyers a low interest rate of 3% and $5,000 in down payment assistance. Some buyers may even qualify for up to $8,000 in down payment assistance on newly constructed homes.

Purchasing your first home can be challenging for anyone - especially those in a noble profession making only a modest salary. Palmetto Heroes is one way SC Housing salutes members of these professions by offering low interest loans to those who qualify. A huge benefit of the program - the down payment assistance - could even be forgivable over time in some cases, depending on the borrower’s income!

“This program is our way of honoring these dedicated individuals who contribute so much to our state,” said Valarie Williams, Executive Director of SC Housing. “It’s important that we invest as much in them as they do into our state each and every day. We hope this program might even strengthen recruitment and retention in these careers, which are crucial to our state’s overall wellbeing.”

To date, the Palmetto Heroes Program has made over 600 mortgage loans totaling over $72 million. The average loan amount is $116,480, and the average household income is approximately $43,000.

Those who do not qualify for the Palmetto Heroes Program may still qualify for one of the other homeownership programs offered by SC Housing, which are available year round to a broad range of South Carolinians seeking to become homeowners.

More about Palmetto Heroes

Palmetto Heroes is available to law enforcement officers, correctional officers, teachers, firefighters, veterans, nurses and EMS personnel who are currently certified in their profession, and reside and work in South Carolina. Mortgage loans can be up to 30 years and are available through any of SC Housing’s network of more than 100 participating private sector lenders and brokers statewide. Maximum income limits are based on the median income per county and household composition. The Palmetto Heroes Program may not be used for refinancing.

For more information, contact one of the real estate professionals, banks or mortgage brokers certified in SC Housing programs. Visit www.SCHousing.com for a complete list.

SCHP Promotions

**Lieutenant**

F/Sgt. J. T. Manley, Troop 6  
F/Sgt. S. N. Gadsden, Troop 6  
Sgt. M. A. Dangerfield, Troop 9  
Sgt. T. K. Laffin, Emergency Traffic Management  
Sgt. T. J. Lott, Office of Information Technology Liaison  
Sgt. R. K. Hughes, DPS Communications Liaison

**First Sergeant**

Sgt. B. K. Floyd, Jr., Troop 1  
F/Sgt. R. H. Sapp, Jr., Troop 4

**Sergeant**

Cpl. C. L. Opperman, Troop 2  
Cpl. J. T. Morf, Troop 2  
Cpl. T. R. Witt, Jr., Troop 3  
Cpl. D. A. Miller, Troop 5  
Cpl. D. E. Whatley, Troop 5  
Cpl. W. A. Rouse, Troop 6  
Cpl. W. D. Rogan, Troop 7

**Corporal**

L/Cpl. K. B. Winburn, Troop 4  
L/Cpl. M. D. Tomson, Troop 7  
L/Cpl. J. C. Francis, Troop 7  
L/Cpl. J. L. Booker, Troop 9

Picture taken at the promotion ceremony on May 16, 2013
The Bureau of Protective Services Welcomes New Officers

BPS added two new employees to its ranks: John B. McAbee and Amber N. Smith, effective April 17, 2013.

Officer McAbee is a May 2012 graduate from USC-Columbia with a Bachelor’s Degree in Experimental Psychology and a minor in General Education.

Officer Smith is a December 2012 graduate from USC-Aiken with a Bachelor’s Degree in Sociology with a concentration in Criminal Justice and an Associate’s Degree in Criminal Justice from Savannah Technical College.

Both McAbee and Smith have an expected graduation date of July 19, 2013.

Join us as we welcome both of them to our BPS Family with much success as they begin their law enforcement career with the S. C. Department of Public Safety.

Payroll merges with Office of Human Resources

As of April 1, 2013, the payroll staff has joined the Office of Human Resources. This move was made to streamline functions in human resources and payroll to ensure timely, efficient and accurate payrolls. By having human resources and payroll working side by side, this will allow us to better serve Team DPS and to quickly catch and resolve any pay or time related issues.

As a result of the merger, the following personnel changes were made:

- **Gwendolyn “Gwen” Autrey** has moved from Finance/Payroll to Human Resources and will continue to serve as the agency’s payroll specialist.
- **Bernice Cooper-James**, former Payroll Analyst/Supervisor, has taken another position in Finance and will remain with Finance.
- Effective May 2, 2013, **Mallory Sharpe** has joined Team DPS and will serve as the Payroll Analyst/Supervisor. Mallory has a wealth of payroll experience and comes to DPS from the SC Department of Mental Health.
- The payroll staff will be managed by **Patty Duggan** (Benefits and Payroll Manager).

We are thrilled to have both Gwen and Mallory join the Human Resources staff. If you have any questions regarding pay and time, please feel free to contact any of the three staff members working with payroll.

BPS Promotions

Congratulations the following officers on their recent rank promotions:

Officer James V. Amick  
*State House Division – COPS Unit*

Officer Matthew R. Dowling  
*Complex Detail Division*

Current DPS Job Vacancies

DPS is seeking qualified applicants to fill current job vacancies. If you know someone that would be a valuable addition to TEAM DPS, please encourage them to visit www.jobs.sc.gov and browse through our current vacancies.

OHR Announces Online FAQ

The Office of Human Resources (OHR) has added a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) section to the OHR homepage at www.scdps.gov/ohr/ under OHR Quicklinks. You may refer to this page at any time for answers to basic questions related to human resources. OHR is hoping to build upon this FAQ section and we welcome your input. Please let us know if you have suggestions or if you would like to contribute a human resources question that you frequently encounter.

Send any suggestions / contributions to Alex Wilcox at AlexWilcox@scdps.gov or Christy Herb at ChristeenHerb@scdps.gov.
Faces of the South Carolina Department of Public Safety
Highway Patrol Pistol Team Wins First Place Awards in Palmetto State Regional Police Pistol Match

On May 2-4, 2013, the South Carolina Highway Patrol Pistol Team competed in the SC Police Combat League Regional Match in Charleston, SC. The Regional is an annual, NRA sanctioned, Police Pistol Combat (PPC) match, which has attracted shooters and teams from all over the United States. These teams represent local, state, private, and federal law enforcement agencies. The Regional is composed of eight individual matches, held over the course of two days. Each match requires the competitors to utilize a different firearm, including service semi-auto, service revolver, off duty, distinguished revolver, distinguished semi-automatic, open class revolver, open class semi-automatic and shotgun.

The Police Pistol Combat (PPC) discipline invites the shooter to focus on the fundamentals of marksmanship while shooting at targets from 3 to 50 yards, under time constraints. Shooters are classified based on their skill and ability. The matches vary in the number of rounds fired. For instance, the service and off duty matches require 48 rounds fired, the distinguished matches are 60 round courses, the open class requires 15 rounds and the shotgun course is 10 slugs. The SCHP Pistol Team of Corporals Pope, McMurry, and Spencer and L/Cpl Lane were successful in this year’s Regional, winning awards including, First Place Classified 1500 aggregate, First Place Marksman Service gun aggregate, First Place Marksman service revolver and second place in the Shotgun Championship.

This success builds on the Pistol Team's performance in last year's National Police Shooting Championships in Albuquerque, NM, where they also won several awards. As the pistol season continues, the team looks for continued success. They also invite all DPS officers to participate in the Palmetto Challenge. The Palmetto Challenge is a series of service gun matches that are being held to encourage new shooters to explore PPC competition. These matches can be fired with duty type handguns, holsters and gear.

Southern Colonels Conference Coming in June

The South Carolina Highway Patrol is the host agency for the International Association of Chief of Police’s Division of State & Provincial Police 2013 Southern Colonels Conference. Highway Patrol and State Police leaders from twelve southern states will converge in Charleston to discuss enforcement, public education and operational programs that save lives both on the highways and in our communities.

The conference will be held June 10-13 at the Francis Marion Hotel.

First Basic Bicycle Patrol Class Hosted by BPS

The Bureau of Protective Services hosted its first Basic Bicycle Patrol Class on April 29-May 3, 2013. This 40 hour course is certified by the Law Enforcement Bicycle Association (LEBA), which is the most established bike patrol training curriculum available. This course teaches officers how to utilize bicycles to patrol, perform traffic stops, and approach and apprehend suspects. The class was comprised of officers from: Richland County Sheriff’s Community Action Team (CAT), Clover City Police, Lexington City Police, Lexington Medical Center DPS, Methodist University Police, NC, and Bureau Protective Services.
DPS Employees Recognized for Years of State Service, Employee Appreciation Day

40 YEARS OF SERVICE
Berry, Susan

30 YEARS OF SERVICE
Causey, Clarence
Filyaw, James
Fitzpatrick, Burke
Gosnell, Mark
Johnson, Eddie
McManus, Robert
Moore, Jerry
Oliver, Michael
Wilson, Russell
Wright, Marc

Shelton, Christopher
Strait, James
Thompson, Charles
Thompson, Eric
Warren, Alfred
Wilson, Robin

10 YEARS OF SERVICE
Bali, Latika
Bellamy, Herman
Bennett, Roland
Bethea, Preston
Bethea, Shawn
Bradshaw, Frederick
Cardona, Jaime
Cooper, Christopher
Costa, Christopher
Crocker, Richard
Deas, Stephanie
Edwards, Chad
English, Amery
Enxuto, Edgar
Fortner, Jeff
Gannon, Richard
Gardner, Bradford
Ginn, Kevin
Graham, Michael
Grant, Laveetra
Green, Alicia
Greer, James
Griggs, Greg
Hardin, Victor
Harmon, George
Harmon, Luther
Heaton, Jeremy
Hodge, Joseph
Johnson, David
Kelley, William
Lefever, Lisa
Loftis, Brandon
Mason, Patricia
May, Dirgen
Mcdermot, Michael
Mcadden, Reginald
Mckellar, Christopher
Mckenzie, Dalton
Porter, Leon
Sherriff, Shaun
Sightler, Lisa
Simmons, Maria
Smith, Darrell
Spivey, David
Spivey, Phillip
Stanchek, Daniel
Lynn Graham Receives Distinguished Humanitarian of the Year Award from SC Victim Assistance Network

On January 16, 2013, over 15 members of Team DPS joined in an effort to improve their health and strive to become the Biggest Loser. Biggest Loser: Challenge DPS was an eight week competition that addressed all the key components needed for successful long-term weight loss. With the help of Health Education Professional, Diane Conte from Prevention Partners, participants were trained in the art of calorie counting, stress management, and physical activity. Everyone that stepped into the classroom left with valuable insight on how to improve their personal nutrition and fitness, but only one could be crowned the DPS Biggest Loser!

After eight weeks of dedicated and determined self-discipline, a winner was crowned. Mrs. Lynda Chapman, from the Office of Financial Services, lost an impressive 7.5 pounds! Lynda not only walked away healthier, but she also walked away with a winner’s jackpot of $260 cash!

When asked how it felt to be crowned the Biggest Loser, Lynda said, “It was awesome! I never thought I would win!” Lynda was motivated by the friendly competition between her coworkers, but attributes her success to exercising and practicing portion control.

This competition not only gave DPS employees a chance to pocket a few extra dollars and drop a few pounds, it also opened up a chance to build a supportive environment in the workplace that stresses healthy living. Lynda was asked to name her favorite part of the competition and she immediately praised the weekly group meet-ups.

When asked if she would encourage others to join Biggest Loser, Lynda said. “Yes, I highly recommend everyone taking the opportunity to learn about the food they are eating.”

The Challenge is not over! Rumors are already spreading about a Biggest Loser Battle: DPS v. DMV!

For more information about the Biggest Loser or Prevention Partners you can visit www.eip.sc.gov/prevention or contact Alex Wilcox at AlexWilcox@scdps.gov.
SC Law Enforcement Officers Hall of Fame Inducts Two at May 1 Ceremony

The South Carolina Department of Public Safety, Law Enforcement Officers Hall of Fame, held induction ceremonies on May 1 for two South Carolina law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty. One of those officers was killed in 2012 and another officer was discovered to be a line-of-duty death through historical research by his department.

“Today, we honor heroes of South Carolina law enforcement,” said Director Smith. “Regardless of the uniform a law enforcement officer or first responder wears, we are bound by our common mission and commitment to serve and protect. That is why it is so important to remember and honor the lives of these public servants who gave all for the State of South Carolina.”

The South Carolina Law Enforcement Officers Hall of Fame was established by legislative act in 1974. By that act, its purpose was defined “as a memorial to law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty and in recognition of the selfless dedication of all law enforcement officers in the day-to-day performance of their duties.”

This year, the following officers were inducted:

Master Corporal Sandra E. Rogers, Aiken Dept. of Public Safety, End of watch: January 28, 2012

Patrolman William H. Frey, Spartanburg Police Department, End of Watch: June 20, 1942

The Hall of Fame is located at 5400 Broad River Road and is open from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day. It is free to the public and group tours are welcome by prior arrangement.

http://www.scdps.gov/hof/