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CAMPAIGN CALENDAR

April 2022

- April is Alcohol Awareness Month
- April is National Distracted Driving Awareness Month

May 2022

- National Bicycle Safety Month (Entire Month)
- National Police Week
May 15-21, 2022

[More Calendar](#)

NHTSA ANNOUNCES 2022 PUBLIC SERVICE AWARDS

The U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration recently announced the 2022 NHTSA Public Service Awards at the annual Lifesavers Conference on Highway Safety Priorities in Chicago. [More.](#)

ARDOT URGES ARKANSANS TO SLOW DOWN!

Within four years, work zone crashes in Arkansas have increased by more than 70%.

The *Arkansas Highway Commission* and the *Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT)* are urging a unified effort between citizens and workers to increase work zone safety following two ARDOT employee deaths in work zones in a matter of weeks.

"On behalf of the Arkansas Highway Commission, we are deeply saddened and concerned by the alarming rise in work zone crashes, injuries and deaths in Arkansas - especially the two most recent deaths in the past month," said Robert Moore, Chair of the Commission. "Our hearts go out to the families whose loved ones went to work one day and never made it home."

Slow Down - Phone Down is a statewide work zone safety campaign urging drivers to slow down and put their phone down when entering a work zone. Not only are these the two most important measures we can take to prevent accidents in work zones, but speeding and/or using your phone in a work zone are illegal. Fines for traffic violations are doubled in work zones in which workers are present.

WORK ZONE INCIDENTS & INURIES ARE ON THE RISE

In 2018, more than 1200 work zone crashes were reported in Arkansas. In 2021, the number of reported work zone crashes jumped to more than 2100.

ARDOT and Arkansas Highway Police are taking action to stop this alarming trend. How Does The Campaign Work? [Read More.](#)

B.A.T. MOBILE CHECKS IN AT AR STATE POLICE HEADQUARTERS

What is the B.A.T. Mobile?

The B.A.T. Mobile is a highly specialized vehicle used for conducting sobriety checkpoints throughout the state. The B.A.T. Mobile program is based at the Black River Technical College's Law Enforcement Training Academy in Pocahontas, Arkansas, and is available for use by agencies throughout the State of Arkansas free of charge. Funding for the B.A.T. Mobile Program is provided through a grant from the Arkansas State Police Highway Safety Office (ASHO) and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

The grant covers all of the costs for the use of the B.A.T. Mobile Program including maintenance, fuel, lodging, salary, and training. The B.A.T. Mobile is a 38-foot long, 13.5-foot tall Freightliner truck custom built by MBF Industries in Sanford, Florida. It is equipped with 9 cameras which provide a 360-degree recorded coverage of sobriety checkpoint activities, five on the exterior, and four in the interior.

One of the exterior cameras is attached to the 30-foot LED light tower which offers a bird's eye view of the checkpoint. Three interior cameras record officers performing Standardized Field Sobriety Tests (SFSTs) and Drug Recognition Evaluations (DREs).

The final interior camera system is a Hawkeye HGN camera system that magnifies and records eye movements during the administration of the Horizontal Gaze Nystagmus (HGN) portion of the SFST. All interior cameras are equipped with audio recording.

The B.A.T. Mobile is also equipped with hydraulic leveling jacks to level the surface in order for a subject to perform the two psychophysical tests of the SFSTs in a neutral environment. There is also an exam room and equipment onboard to complete drug recognition evaluations.

The B.A.T. Mobile is equipped with a Verizon 5G wireless router, Dish Network, and a satellite phone. The rear of the B.A.T. Mobile has a 36"x 60" LED message board for traffic advisories, public service messages, and promotional pictures. The B.A.T. Mobile is also equipped with the following equipment for checkpoints: traffic cones, warning signs, safety flares, portable speed bumps, and portable stop signs. . [Read More.](#)



IMPAIRED DRIVING IS A CHOICE. DRIVE SOBER, ARKANSAS!



Staff Spotlight

MICHAEL CATANACH

After working as a Boll Weevil Eradicator throughout the south for over fifteen years, Mike’s work eventually led him to Arkansas; traveling all the way from Andrews, Texas. As a team member of the Arkansas Highway Safety Office (AHSO), he currently serves as a Program Manager for E-Grants and STEPs.

If you know Mike, you know that he is a family man, but what you may not know about him is that he loves to light up the grill and cook for his friends and family. Michael is an excellent communicator and an asset to the AHSO. Light the way, Michael! Oh, and invite us next time you decide to light up the grill.



Did you know...

- Three out of four fatal crashes occur within 25 miles of the victim’s home.
- Most crashes causing death or injury occur at speeds below 40 miles per hour!
- Nearly 18% of Arkansas drivers do not wear their seat belts.

Seat belts are the best defense against impaired, aggressive, and distracted drivers. Being buckled up during a crash helps keep you safe and secure inside your vehicle; being completely ejected from a vehicle is almost always deadly. Your seat belt is crucial to surviving a crash. Make the life saving choice to buckle up every trip. Your loved ones deserve to have you around--all of your life.

In 2019, nearly half of passenger vehicle occupants who died in crashes were unrestrained. That’s worth repeating. So, let’s say it another way of the 22,215 passenger vehicle occupants killed in 2019, 47% were not wearing seat belts. [More About Occupant Protection](#)

"Seat belts are the best defense against impaired, aggressive, and distracted drivers."

HIGHWAY SAFETY OFFICE





High Five Rural Traffic Safety Project

TOP 6 QUESTIONS TO ASK BEFORE BYPASSING THE BUCKLE WHEN DRIVING RURAL ROADS



*Out in the country is what most rural residents of Arkansas call living rural. You might be surprised to know in 2019, 68% of fatal crashes in Arkansas occurred on rural roads and 82% of Arkansas roads are rural. **

Ready for six questions to test your knowledge about seat belt safety? There always seem to be a few things we hear people say all the time that need a little tweaking in our thinking about seat belt safety.

Before we get started with those questions, let's establish a couple of words for our conversation. A fact is a thing that is known or proven to be true. Whereas fiction is a belief or statement that is false, but often held to be true because it is convenient to do so or you hear it so much you think it's true. With that in mind, there are some statements that surround seat belt safety that are fiction.

Now see if you can spot the fact or fiction out of the following statements. The answer is directly below the question.

*If you're not going far or not traveling fast, seat belts are unnecessary. Fact or Fiction? **Fiction.*** Seemingly routine trips can be deceptively dangerous. Most fatal crashes happen within 25 miles from home and at speeds of less than 40 mph. [Click here](#) for full article on Rural Road Safety

"You might be surprised to know in 2019, 68% of fatal crashes in Arkansas occurred on rural roads and 82% of Arkansas roads are rural."

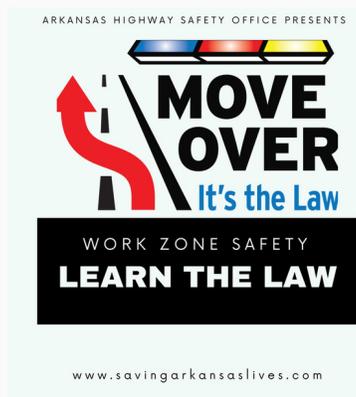
NHTSA





LEARN THE LAW

BY ARKANSAS STATE POLICE



"Move Over or Slow Down! You could be saving a life."

ARKANSAS STATE POLICE

Almost weekly, we hear the headline "officer killed on traffic stop". This has to stop! The "Move Over Law" require drivers, upon noticing either emergency vehicle with sirens and/or flashing lights, to move away from the vehicle by one lane, or if that is not possible, slow down to either a reasonable speed or a fixed speed below the limit as defined by local law.

Please, if you see any vehicle with lights on the side of the road, MOVE OVER or SLOW DOWN!!! You could be saving our life! 27-51-310. Passing authorized vehicle stopped on highway -- Definition

(a) As used in this section, "authorized vehicle" means a vehicle that:

1. Displays a flashing, revolving, or rotating blue, red, amber, amber and red, white, or green light; and
2. Is one (1) of the following:

- (A) An emergency response vehicle;
- (B) A law enforcement vehicle;
- (C) An Arkansas Department of Transportation vehicle;
- (D) An Arkansas Department of Transportation contractor vehicle;
- (E) A utility company vehicle; or
- (F) A vehicle used in a towing operation as defined under § 27-51-904.

[Click here](#) for full article on Learn The Law: Move Over.



OTHER TRAFFIC SAFETY NEWS!



IMPAIRED DRIVING TASK FORCE

Impaired Driving Task Force Chairwoman, 2009 Public Service Award Recipient, Teresa Belew and Laura Bailey, ADH Branch Chief, OOAT, 2022 Public Service Award Recipient

The Arkansas Impaired-Driving Prevention Task Force (AIDPTF) gathers key players who address DWI issues together to share information, explore options, and close potential loopholes in the circle of impaired-driving legislation, enforcement, prosecution, adjudication, and treatment. In addition, the AIDPTF provides a calm and safe place for members to address potentially controversial issues or any unintended consequences of strategies or new legislation that may affect different State agencies and stakeholders before the change is adopted.

Teresa Belew

With over forty years of experience serving on local, state and national boards that focus on victim advocacy, traffic safety, suicide prevention and public policy, Teresa Belew is the Arkansas Impaired Driving Prevention Task Force, Chair and 2009 NHTSA Public Service Awardee. Presently retired, she spends her time proportionately as a Governor appointed Arkansas Alcohol and Drug Abuse Coordinating Council Member who oversees all treatment, prevention and drug task force programs and their funding in Arkansas. [Click here](#) to find out more.

WORK ZONE SAFETY

*Officials with ARDOT said currently there are 418 miles of roadway that are under construction.**

The Arkansas Highway Commission and the Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT) are urging a unified effort between citizens and workers to increase work zone safety following two ARDOT employee deaths in work zones in a matter of weeks.

The deaths of Petty and Cottier are part of a dangerous trend, Arkansas Department of Transportation spokesman Dave Parker said, with the agency finding that work zone crashes jumped 70% in the past four years. By 2021, the number of reported work zone crashes had reached 2,100, Parker said. [Click here for more](#)

SPRING EVENT CAMPAIGN AWARENESS CALENDAR

May 2022

- National Bicycle Safety Month (Entire Month)
- National Heatstroke Prevention Day May 1, 2022
- National Bike To School Day May 4, 2022
- National Police Week May 15-21, 2022
- National EMS Week May 16-22, 2022
- Bike To Work Day May 20, 2022

June 2022

- Secure Your Load Day June 6, 2022
- Ride To Work Day June 20, 2022

July 2022

- July is Vehicle Theft Prevention Month
- State July 4th Holiday DWI Mobilization June 29 - July 4th
- State Speed Mobilization July 18-31, 2022

[More Event & Campaign Calendar](#)

HSO EGRANT FAQs

STEP GRANTS WHAT ARE THEY AND WHO CAN APPLY?

The Arkansas Highway Safety Office (AHSO) receives funds annually from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) to promote roadway safety initiatives within the State of Arkansas. [Click here](#) for more about STEP Grants

Workzone CounterMeasures Roar!



In Fall 2021, ARDOT began development of a statewide work zone safety campaign. On February 2, 2022, ARDOT and industry stakeholders, together with Arkansas State Police and Arkansas Highway Police, will roll out this campaign that includes a statewide increased enforcement of reckless and distracted driving laws in work zones. The Move Over Law driver laws in Arkansas drivers are required to move over one lane away from emergency vehicles on the side of the road. If you can't move over, slow down. More about the Move Over Law.

[Read More](#)

MAUREEN VOGEL, NATIONAL SAFETY COUNCIL

"Distracted driving is an epidemic."

www.savingarkansaslives.com

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