



**e-FMCSA Safety Belt Program Update**

*This electronic communicator highlights our Commercial Motor Vehicle (CMV) Safety Belt Program initiatives and activities of the CMV Safety Belt Partnership and States.*

**Major Highlights - April 2007**

**A FIRST FOR 2007 LIFESAVERS CONFERENCE!**

**WORKSHOP DEDICATED TO BUCKLING UP COMMERCIAL DRIVERS.**

The 2007 Lifesavers Conference (March 25-27) gathers over 2,000 highway safety professionals from all over the U.S. to share the latest information on advances in highway safety, highlight successful programs and draw attention to emerging safety issues. The conference held in Chicago, Illinois this year, presented over 85 workshops - addressing a wide range of safety topics, from child passenger safety and occupant protection to roadway and vehicle safety and technology. Janet Kumer, represented FMCSA and the Commercial Motor Vehicle (CMV) Safety Belt Partnership as the moderator of two workshops: *Buckling Up Commercial Drivers* and *An Important Link to Highway Safety: Commercial Vehicles*.



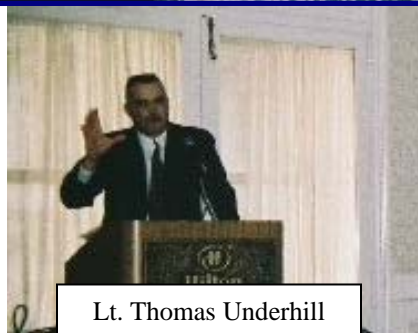
Lt. Thomas Underhill, Janet Kumer, Captain Steve Binkley



Janet Kumer and Jean Fox



Lt. Thomas Underhill, Janet Kumer, Assistant Director Terry Butler



Lt. Thomas Underhill

Panelists for the *Buckling Up Commercial Drivers* workshop included: Terry Butler, Assistant Director of the Missouri Safety Center, Central Missouri State University presenting Missouri's comprehensive CMV driver safety belt program; Captain Steve Binkley, Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Unit, Tennessee Highway Patrol, Tennessee State Patrol, presenting Tennessee's *Safety Enforcement and Trucks* safety belt and enforcement campaign; and Lieutenant Thomas Underhill, Officer-in-Charge, Rhode Island State Police Commercial Enforcement Unit presenting Rhode Island's safety belt and enforcement program.

Panelists for the *An Important Link to Highway Safety: Commercial Vehicles* included: Tom Wise, Acting Chief, Hazardous Materials Unit, Commercial Motor Vehicle Section, Bureau of Safety Programs, Division of Traffic Safety, Illinois Department of Transportation presenting an overview of Illinois motor carrier safety program which has dramatically decreased commercial motor vehicle crashes; Michael Knodler, Director of the University of Massachusetts Traffic Safety Research Program (UMassSafe) presenting the UMassSafe Commercial Vehicle Data Management System (CVDMS) which is used to reduce crashes involving large trucks and buses in the State of Massachusetts; and Commander Lowell Porter, Director of the Washington Traffic Safety Commission presenting the Washington State's *Ticketing Aggressive Cars and Trucks* project known as TACT.

FMCSA also provided an exhibit booth which provided all Lifesavers participants an opportunity to visit with FMCSA representatives, Jean Fox and Janet Kumer, to learn about FMCSA's programs.

#### **ATA CONGRATULATES DRIVERS AT THE 2007 MID-AMERICA TRUCK SHOW (MATS).**

The American Trucking Associations America's Road Team displayed a large banner at their booth at the Mid-America Truck Show in Louisville, Kentucky. The banner reads, *Congratulations Commercial Drivers: More Drivers Buckling Up!*

The America's Road Team played the [new \*Be Ready. Be Buckled.\* public service announcement \(PSA\)](#) at their booth at MATS and at the 2007 Lifesavers Conference. This PSA shows drivers endorsing the buckling up message – *Be Ready. Be Buckled.* For copies of the *Be Ready. Be Buckled.* PSA in audio and video, contact Janet Kumer at [janet.kumer@dot.gov](mailto:janet.kumer@dot.gov).

## **Congratulations CMV Drivers ...More Commercial Drivers are Buckling Up!**



#### **INCREASING SAFETY BELT USE IN YOUR COMPANY MANUAL (CD).**

Don't forget safety begins at home. We still have copies of the increasing safety belt use in your company manual. The manual and driver training PowerPoint is available on the safety belt web page, [www.fmcsa.dot.gov/safetybelt](http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/safetybelt) and in CD format through FMCSA. For copies, contact Elizabeth Davies-Sekle at [Elizabeth.davies-sekle@dot.gov](mailto:Elizabeth.davies-sekle@dot.gov).

## **NORTH AMERICAN OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH (NAOSH) WEEK IS**

**MAY 6-12.** This year NAOSH is focusing on all modes of transportation safety. On Monday, May 7, officials from the American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE), the Canadian Society of Safety Engineering (CSSE), the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), members of Congress and 35 plus industry associations including the CMV Safety Belt Partnership will join the many winners of the 5th annual ASSE kids' "Safety-on-the-Job" poster contest and their families from across the country at the U.S. Department of Labor in Washington, D.C. For more information, contact Diane Hurns at [dhurns@asse.org](mailto:dhurns@asse.org).

**CLICK IT OR TICKET, MAY 21-JUNE 3.** "The enforcement-focused message "Click It or Ticket" has been proven to provoke positive response among persons who are not persuaded by messages that focus on the life saving benefits of safety belts. People who persist in denying their vulnerability to crashes and death seem to be more accepting of the personal risk they face of being stopped, given a citation and paying a fine. The program consists of high visibility enforcement with an intense flurry of paid advertising and publicity about enforcement creates the heightened awareness and actual behavioral change we need to save lives." For more information, visit <http://www.nhtsa.gov/link/CIOT.html>.

**ROADCHECK 2007 IS JUNE 5-7.** The mission of RoadCheck is to conduct a 72-hour period of North American Standard roadside inspections of drivers and commercial vehicles throughout the Canadian provinces and territories, U.S. states and territories and Mexico. Lives are being saved because roadside inspections conducted by CVSA-certified inspectors take place every day throughout North America. The inspections conducted during the 72 hour Roadcheck 2006 event (60,357) resulted in 14.5 lives saved and 262 injuries avoided.

The objectives of RoadCheck are to remove unsafe commercial vehicle drivers and vehicles from the highways; educate government, industry and the public about the important role roadside enforcement plays in saving lives on North America's highways and helping to provide a safe and secure place to travel; and educate commercial vehicle drivers and others about the importance of safe driving, buckling up and maintaining safe vehicles, as well as the proper preparations to enhance security. For more information, contact Steve Keppler, Director of Policy & Programs at (202) 775-1623 ext. 106 or [stevek@cvsa.org](mailto:stevek@cvsa.org).

**CMV DRIVER SAFETY BELT USE UP IN 2006.** The 2006 CMV safety belt observation study showed a 5% increase in safety belt use by CMV drivers since last year. The study found 59% of class 7 and 8 drivers wear safety belts up from 54% in a similar study conducted for FMCSA in 2005. To order a copy of the study, visit [www.fmcsa.dot.gov/safetybelt](http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/safetybelt) . In both 2005 and 2006, the highest usage rates were observed among the single tankers and hazardous material (HazMat) tractor-trailer combinations. In 2006, the drivers of tractors pulling trailers with a HazMat placard displayed had the highest usage rate (84%) of any of the various categories observed. In 2006 HazMat placarded single tankers also had a high usage rate (83%). The 2005 usage rate for those units where the truck was identified as part of a major regional or national fleet was 63%, versus 41% for independent or local fleets. The usage rate increased significantly to 75% in 2006 for the major national or regional fleets. Usage among independents also increased to 44%. While not statistically significant this suggests that owner-operators are getting the message and joining their long-haul counterparts in increasing safety belt usage.

## State Safety Belt Initiatives

**Arizona.** On January 23, 2007, officers of the Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS), Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Bureau conducted a safety belt usage detail “Cop on the Corner.” The operation worked under the same basic principle of placing a DPS officer in a strategic location to observe traffic violations. In this case, officers are specifically looking at commercial vehicles to detect whether the driver is wearing his seat belt. The officer then notifies multiple units that are staged down the interstate or in a general area to pursue and conduct an inspection and issue a citation.

The detail was conducted at three locations (two along I-10 and one on SR 347) in the east valley area of the Phoenix Metro area. A total of 17 officers and three supervisors participated in the detail for six hours from 7:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Officers were positioned at multiple entry ramps and used binoculars to see the safety belt infractions. A Level II or Level III inspection was performed. “Cop on the Corner” resulted in 108 Level II inspections and 4 Level III inspections performed resulting in 95 of the 112 drivers inspected receiving citations for not wearing their seatbelt:

Total Commercial Vehicles Inspected:	108
Total Drivers Inspected:	112
SAFETY BELT Citations Issued:	95

Another DPS inspection activity focusing on safety belt use on April 17<sup>th</sup> in the same east valley area of Phoenix Metro resulted in 25 of the 31 drivers inspected receiving citations for not wearing their seatbelts:

Total Commercial Vehicles Inspected:	30
Total Drivers Inspected	31
Seat Belt Citations Issued	25

**For further information contact Lt. Bernie Gzadzic, AZ DPS Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Bureau, at (928) 913-0950**

**Louisiana** reports in FY’07, Louisiana began a new and exciting program to help educate CMV drivers to wear seatbelts. In Louisiana, of the 13 CMV drivers who were fatally injured in a crash in 2005, 10, or 77% were not wearing a safety belt. Increasing the CMV safety belt compliance rate is perhaps the single most important initiative to be undertaken in the effort to reduce the number of drivers fatally injured in crashes each year. Louisiana’s new program encourages motor carriers to adopt the company safety belt policy distributed during Safety Audits conducted by the State. These Safety Audits are conducted by trained Louisiana Troopers and contractors. The Safety Audits follow Federal Motor Carrier guidelines.

Louisiana will monitor the safety belt policy by keeping records of how many companies sign up. This initiative is part of Louisiana’s FY’07 Commercial Vehicle Safety Plan. *For more information, contact, FMCSA Division*

### Safety Belt Use Policy

**(name of company)** recognizes that:

- traffic crashes are the number one cause of death in the work place;
- seat belts are extremely effective in preventing injuries and loss of life;
- seat belts are an effective and essential tool of personal protection;
- reducing these costly injuries and deaths can strengthen our company.

Therefore, **(name of company)** is adopting the following Seat Belt Use Policy: All employees must wear seat belt when operating a company-owned vehicle. Those in violation of this policy may be subject to disciplinary action.

**Administrator, Sterlin Williams or FMCSA State Program Manager, Bill Norris in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, at (225) 757-7640 or [William.norris@dot.gov](mailto:William.norris@dot.gov).**

**MINNESOTA.** In 2006, MN raised speed limits on many state highways from 55 mph to 60 mph while actively increasing speed enforcement through-out the state. The “HEAT” Project (Highway Enforcement of Aggressive Traffic) is a new statewide speed management program designed to better control speeding, increase safety on state roadways and remind drivers that the posted speed limit is the speed limit. According to the Minnesota Department of Public Safety News Release dated March 6, “High travel speed continued to drop on roads that had speed limits increased from 55 mph to 60 mph. Speed data was collected by MnDOT automatic traffic recorders (ATR) for a seven-day period before and after HEAT enforcement. In the metro, the number of vehicles traveling over 70 mph has dropped 28 percent based on data sampling. On Highways I-35W, I-94 and 100, vehicles traveling over 70 mph decreased by 29 percent, 17 percent, and 48 percent, respectively. The decreases translate to 5,594; 3,226; and 4,139 fewer vehicles a day traveling over 70 mph, respectively. In greater Minnesota, data collected on Highways 2 and 71 shows the number of vehicles traveling over 70 mph has dropped nearly 42 percent.” HEAT is supported by \$2.5 million in federal funding for speed limit enforcement on state roadways for one year — translating into nearly 1,400 hours of additional enforcement across the state. Safety belt enforcement is part of the HEAT project. **For more information, contact, FMCSA Division Administrator, Dan Drexler, at (651) 291-6150 or [dan.drexler@dot.gov](mailto:dan.drexler@dot.gov).**

**MISSOURI.** The 2006 Missouri CMV driver safety belt usage study conducted in October, 2006, showed CMV driver usage rate at 65%. Missouri continues to distribute the following safety belt education and outreach “Buckle Up” materials to motor carriers and drivers:

- *Top 10 Reasons Commercial Motor Vehicle Drivers Should Always Buckle Up!* brochure (see [www.fmcsa.dot.gov/safetybelt](http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/safetybelt) for copy)
- Sample “Safety Belt Policy” for Motor Carrier Industry.
- Sample articles for Motor Carrier Industry company newsletters

Two radio public service announcements were aired statewide for a week in May, 2006 and, again in early October, 2006. Missouri plans to continue these activities and conduct a follow-up survey in October 2007. **For more information, contact Marcia Haldiman, Sr. Operations Specialist – MCSAP at (573) 751-5434.**

**Ohio.** During February of 2007, the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) mailed the following safety belt educational materials to 5,100 motor carriers, all operating 6 or more commercial motor vehicles: *Increasing Safety Belt Use in Your Company* CDs and *9 Myths About Safety Belts for Truck Drivers* brochures.

This effort was conducted by the PUCO in an attempt to promote and increase safety belt usage by CMV drivers of Ohio motor carriers. These materials provide motor carriers with information and ideas on how to increase the usage of safety belts by its drivers. The PUCO used a web based survey tool to gauge the usefulness of the materials. The majority of responses provided by the motor carriers who received the educational materials indicated the materials should prove effective in their efforts to educate their drivers on the benefits of safety belt usage and to increase the overall usage rate for its drivers. The PUCO intends to send these safety belt education materials to an additional 5,000 motor carriers by the end of FY 2007 in its continued effort to increase the usage of safety belts by CMV drivers in Ohio. **For more information, contact, Keith Willoughby, FMCSA Ohio State Program Manager at (614) 280-6863 or email at [keith.willoughby@dot.gov](mailto:keith.willoughby@dot.gov).**

**Oregon.** Vehicle inspection forms have been revised to include the following statement: ***DO YOUR DRIVERS WEAR THEIR SEATBELTS? IT'S NOT JUST A GOOD IDEA – IT'S THE LAW!*** For more information, contact, Andrew Eno, FMCSA Oregon Division Administrator at (503) 399-5775 or email at [andrew.eno@dot.gov](mailto:andrew.eno@dot.gov).

**Rhode Island.** [The following is from a Rhode Island State Police Press Release, Nov. 22, 2006] “In 2005 the Rhode Island State Police Commercial Enforcement Unit (CEU) contracted with Advantage Marketing Information Company, to conduct a survey on the safety belt usage of commercial motor vehicle (CMV) operators.

**2005 Seatbelt Survey Results:**

- *Statewide seatbelt compliance among CMV operators was 48.8 percent*
- *National seatbelt compliance among CMV operators was 54% (based on FMCSA survey)*
- *Statewide seatbelt compliance among CMV operators in target areas (Route 95 from Warwick to the Massachusetts state line, Route 295 in Johnston, and the truck stop area of Route 95 in Exeter) was 36%*

The CEU subsequently initiated a program to target CMV seatbelt compliance, through an aggressive education and enforcement campaign.

Twenty details were deployed from January through September 2006. The following statistical data was compiled as a result of these enforcement details:

<i>Total Inspections</i>	<i>244</i>
<i>Total Seatbelt Violations</i>	<i>196</i>
<i>Total Vehicle Violations</i>	<i>243</i>
<i>Total Driver Violations</i>	<i>277</i>
<i>Total Summons issued</i>	<i>149</i>
<i>Total Out of Service Drivers</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>Total Out of Service Vehicles</i>	<i>15</i>

A follow-up seatbelt survey was conducted this year, to investigate whether or not the CEU seatbelt education and enforcement program had an impact on seatbelt compliance throughout the state. The following information was revealed as a result of this survey:

**2006 Seatbelt Survey Results:**

- *Statewide seatbelt compliance among CMV operators was 50.2 %*
- *National seatbelt compliance among CMV operators was 54% (based on FMCSA Survey)*
- **Statewide seatbelt compliance among CMV operators in the same target areas was 54.2%**

**Increase in Seatbelt Compliance As a Result of RISP Training/Enforcement Program:**

This is an increase of 1.4 percent in statewide seatbelt compliance in 2006 over 2005. **In the target areas the increase in compliance was 18.2 percent.**

As a result of the success of the seatbelt enforcement and education program, the Rhode Island State Police Commercial Enforcement Unit presented two awards to trucking companies to recognize their efforts to promote seatbelt usage among their employees during this campaign.

***Hudson Asphalt Group Receives “Safety Belt Leadership Award”***

The Hudson Asphalt Group of Providence received a ***“Safety Belt Leadership”*** award on November 14, 2006 at the Rhode Island Trucking Association’s Fall Dinner, at the Venus De Milo in Swansea,

Massachusetts. Hudson Asphalt Group was recognized for their outstanding leadership and managerial ability in the supervision and implementation of sound safety practices, particularly their efforts to ensure safety belt use. Hudson's leadership in the area of safety serves as an inspiring example to the commercial vehicle operators in the State of Rhode Island and contributed to the increased safety belt usage. Hudson Liquid Asphalts, Inc. has maintained a satisfactory safety rating from the Federal Motor Carrier Administration from their first compliance review over 20 years ago. While driving over a half a million miles last year, their driver out-of-service rate was zero, compared to that of a national average of just under 7 percent. Hudson's hazardous material out-of-service rate was also zero, compared to the national average of 6 percent.

These results of the latest seatbelt survey revealed that the CMV seatbelt compliance program initiated by the Rhode Island State Police Commercial Enforcement Unit has had a positive impact on the target areas. The CEU will continue this program in an effort to increase CMV seatbelt compliance statewide." *For more information, contact Lt. Thomas Underhill, Commercial Enforcement Unit, Rhode Island State Police, at (401) 444-1187 or tunderhill@risp.state.ri.us.*

**TENNESSEE** CMV safety belt education/enforcement campaigns started in 2004. At that time, CMV driver safety belt use in Tennessee was 58%. As a result of the annual campaigns, safety belt use increased to 77% in 2005 and 80% in 2006. The campaigns are similar to the original 2004 campaign. Public education announcements (PSAs) are run routinely on radio and television. The Department of Safety Tennessee Highway Patrol eight field offices identifies strategic locations in their districts with large volumes of truck traffic. The first 100 hours in each district are dedicated to observation and education only. If a truck driver was observed not using a safety belt he was stopped, given a "9 Myths about Safety Belt Use for Truck Drivers" brochure and verbally reminded about the importance of using safety belts. Safety belt usage and non-usage rate was tracked by class of trucks. Each of the eight district offices dedicates 500 hours to conduct safety belt enforcement activities (hard copy or warning citations) in the same locations used during the observation period. Approximately 4,000 hours of enforcement are conducted over a five month period (December, 2004 – April, 2005). The Department of Safety continues the safety belt education and outreach effort by visiting companies and talking to drivers during the enforcement phase. Television announcements continue to be aired during for the enforcement phase. *For more information, contact Captain Steve Binkley, Tennessee Highway Patrol at (615) 687-2317.*



**UTAH.** The Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) has implemented an innovative safety outreach campaign called "Drive to Stay Alive," which targets safety messages and slogans directly toward truck drivers. Utah's Commercial Vehicle Safety Plan identifies a number of highway corridors in the State where patterns involve single-

vehicle, run-off-the-road CMV crashes with speed, fatigue, lack of safety belt use, and driver inattention having been identified as contributing factors. Along with utilizing a number of enforcement approaches, Utah developed this outreach program as a countermeasure to focus on and reduce such crashes.

Using a High-Priority MCSAP grant, UDOT contracted with a public relations firm to develop educational materials and approaches designed to appeal to commercial drivers, including slogans on billboard signs at strategic locations, educational materials bearing the "Drive to Stay Alive" logo with a Harley-Davidson-style look, and public service announcements; in addition, the campaign involves outreach events at a variety of industry functions. This program is being conducted in conjunction with Utah's "TruckSmart"

outreach campaign, aimed at educating passenger car drivers about driving safely around trucks. *For more information, contact Bob Kelleher, FMCSA Utah Division Administrator at (801) 963-0098 x 202 or Robert.kelleher@dot.gov.*

**Outreach Opportunities, May - June, 2007**

**May 6-12**

North American Occupational Safety and Health (NAOSH) Week  
National Kick-Off Events, DOL, Washington, D.C. May 7

**May 21- June 3**

Click It or Ticket Nationwide Campaign

**June 5-7**

2007 RoadCheck, Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance

**To share information about your safety belt initiatives, ideas, outreach opportunities, contact the FMCSA's Outreach Division, Janet Kumer, Safety Belt Program Manager, at [janet.kumer@dot.gov](mailto:janet.kumer@dot.gov) or (202) 493-0538.**