In the first UD Safety Extensions newsletter I summarized the three CTSP priority areas. In this issue, I would like to briefly explain the 2009 traffic safety goals while also educating our audience on new programs available through the UD/OHS partnership. My 2009 traffic safety goals are to reduce alcohol-related fatalities, promote safe child restraint practices and educate the public about the dangers involved with aggressive speeding. To achieve these goals I am committed to promoting our current traffic safety programs, while constantly thinking of collaborating with new partners. The CTSP position involves partnering with law enforcement agencies, private companies, and non-profit organizations to create a high level of traffic safety awareness. For 2009 three new community traffic safety programs were designed for adults and teenagers.

The newest CTSP program is called, “Playing Under Impairment”. “Playing Under Impairment” is an anti-drinking and driving activity designed for half-time entertainment during local high school and college basketball games. The objective is to showcase how impairment can impact even the simplest of activities like shooting a basketball. The Fatal Vision Goggles or “impaired goggles” are used to illustrate various levels of impairment. The program runs no longer than 3 minutes and is absolutely FREE! Our first program was organized at Cape Henlopen High School on December 23, 2008 and was a huge success. Over three hundred fans, including many students, were exposed to the humorous, yet serious dangers of impaired driving.

The second CTSP program is called, “Mobile Workforce Outreach”. This program was designed to educate employees, managers and owners of small businesses about impaired driving, occupant protection and aggressive speeding. Programs and activities can be customized for each type of business and for each month. For example, a contracting company might want to educate their employees about the negative impacts of drunk driving before the summer season.
(cont’d from page 1)

This request could warrant utilizing the SIDNE (impaired go-kart) in the spring before the weather allows for longer work hours, or a power point in the slow months of winter on the legalities of Delaware’s DUI laws. Another request could come from a child care provider where the owner desires that all employees be educated on the latest child restraint laws. The idea behind this program is to bring educational materials, brochures, and activities to the workplace.

Lastly, even though this is not a program, it is still a new event that requires a brief promotional summary. Cpl. Andrew Manning from the Cape Henlopen State Park and I have scheduled the First Annual Cape Henlopen State Park Community Safety Fair for April 18th from 10-3 pm. The event will be located in the bathhouse parking lot. We expect several traffic safety, law enforcement and state agencies to participate. Thus far we have commitments from the University of Delaware, DelDOT, DNREC, Boy Scouts, Lewes Police, State Police and MADD. For more information about the safety fair please call Merritt Burke at (302) 856-2585 Ext. 584.

As high school Prom season approaches, remember that the SIDNE, our impaired go-kart, is the perfect educational tool to reduce underage drinking and driving. For more information on the SIDNE go to www.fatalvision.com and click on the SIDNE link.

If your organization is interested in any of the CTSP programs, please feel free to email me at merritt@udel.edu

If you like what you see, and would like to receive this newsletter via email, please contact Lisa Collins at lcollins@udel.edu to have your name added to our e-list!

Contributors are also welcome!
Email Merritt@udel.edu to submit your article for consideration. Photos of events and activities pertaining to CTSP programs are welcome!
Please include your name, email address, phone number and affiliation.
2008 Traffic Deaths Rise Slightly
By: Andrea Summers, Community Relations Officer

A New Year’s Eve fatal pedestrian crash brought the total number of people killed in Delaware in 2008 to 122. That means four more people lost their lives in traffic crashes on Delaware roadways last year than in 2007, when 118 people died as a result of vehicle crashes.

“With national fatality numbers expected to fall, we truly wish Delaware could have experienced a similar decrease,” said Tricia Roberts, Director of the Office of Highway Safety, “Every traffic death we learn of is a tragedy in our eyes, and to see the numbers increase instead of decrease is heartbreaking for all who are committed to saving lives on our roads. We are encouraged however, that we were able to make progress in some key areas, while still realizing that there is much work ahead of us if we are to make continued improvements.”

Progress was made last year in the area of alcohol-related traffic deaths. In 2008 42 people (or 34%) of traffic deaths involved alcohol, compared to the 54 (or 46%) that were alcohol-related last year, reflecting a 12% decrease. OHS credits the high visibility enforcement and awareness efforts utilized under its Checkpoint Strikeforce impaired driving prevention campaign for the improvement. As 2009 begins, OHS has already started its first DUI enforcement mobilization of the new year, centered around the NFL playoffs. Twenty-six state and local law enforcement agencies are conducting DUI saturation patrols on Saturdays and Sundays during the NFL playoffs, culminating in Super Bowl Sunday enforcement.

Also in 2008, speed and aggressive driving as factors in fatal crashes decreased. Last year speed was listed as a factor in fatal crashes 20 times compared to 27 times in 2007. Aggressive driving, of which speed is a part, decreased from 61% in 2007, to 51% in 2008. In July, September and October of this year, OHS conducted its Stop Aggressive Driving campaign, but revised it to focus specifically on stopping speeding drivers. Law enforcement issued over 2,700 speeding citations in that three month period. A statewide TV, radio, and billboard campaign accompanied the enforcement.

There was again success in the area of increasing seat belt use in 2008. Seat belt use rose to an all time high of 91% statewide, from its previous level of 87% in 2007. OHS conducted the highly successful Click It or Ticket campaign twice in 2008. The first time was a shortened version of the May effort in February, and was focused on increasing night time seat belt use. Then in May, OHS partnered with law enforcement statewide to conduct the full blown three week mobilization, along with states nationwide. OHS will conduct the campaign during the same time frames in 2009.

Motorcycle deaths remained nearly the same in 2008. Sixteen motorcyclists were killed in crashes last year, compared to 17 in 2007. The average age of the motorcyclist killed last year was 36. In 2009, OHS will continue its valuable partnership with the State’s Motorcycle Rider Education Advisory Committee in an effort to reduce deaths further.

Unfortunately, there were two areas which saw increases in traffic deaths: pedestrians and bicyclists. Pedestrian deaths increased from 17 in 2007 to 22 in 2008. Primary factors in these fatal crashes continue to be pedestrians who do not cross at marked intersections, who are walking at night without wearing reflective clothing or carrying flashlights as required by state law or who are walking under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs.

Last year five bicyclists were killed in crashes on Delaware roads. There were no bicycle fatalities in 2007. In at least four of the five cases, police report that the bicyclist turned into the path of a motor vehicle.

For more information on Office of Highway Safety programs please visit our website at www.ohs.delaware.gov.
The Delaware Office of Highway Safety wants to remind everyone to be aware of changing weather conditions throughout the day, evening. Delaware State Police have already reported that an overnight fatal crash was weather related. So please be mindful of the following tips in order to stay safe on the roads:

* if you must be on the roads at any time please take it slow. Speed is a primary factor in drivers losing control on slick roads. Going slower will provide you with additional reaction time. One way not to have to rush to your destination is to plan extra time into determining how long it will take to get there and leave early! Please realize that if you are out on the roads unnecessarily and crash, that emergency services personnel will be putting themselves at risk to help save your life.

* When driving, leave extra following distance between you and the car in front of you. If they brake suddenly or lose control, you need time to react and adjust.

* Turn your headlights on whenever your windshield wipers are on! It is state law and helps other drivers see you.

* When getting into your car either after work or in the morning, please clear any accumulated snow off the roof or hood of the car. Snow flying off your vehicle could hit the windshield of another car and cause the driver to lose control.

* Also, take additional time to warm the car up and clear any ice off the entire windshield not just the area in front of the driver’s seat. Clear snow from side mirrors, and side and rear windows as well.

* Realize that the roads overnight will be slick in places and you can't always see where black ice has formed. If you start to skid, ease off the gas - DON'T stomp on the brakes - and steer gently in the direction you want the car to go.

* Bridges and overpasses freeze and become slick before other road surfaces, take it slow as you approach them.

* Minimize distractions. Do not talk or text on your cell phone! You need both hands and all attention on the wheel. Use your cell phone only for emergencies such as if you go off the road or need to summon help for someone else who has.

* Do you have the necessary items in your trunk in case of an emergency...a blanket, jumper cables, sand or kitty litter?

If you follow these tips you'll have a better chance of staying safe throughout the coming winter days.
Did you know there’s a difference in the number of people who wear their seat belts at night versus during the daytime? Nationally, seat belt use is often 10% lower at night than in the day even though a person’s chances of being killed in a crash at night triples! In Kent County, observational seat belt surveys show that there is a nearly 15% difference between daytime and night time belt use, and an 8% difference in Sussex County.

Why does this happen? Often, the riskiest drivers are out on the roadways at night, and are less likely to wear seat belts overall. Some people may also think that it’s harder for police to see that they aren’t wearing a seat belt when they’re on the roads at night, as opposed to when they’re traveling during the day.

No matter what the reason, in an effort to increase the number of people who buckle up both day and night, the Delaware Office of Highway Safety will be coordinating the first Click It or Ticket campaign for 2009 during the last week of February (22-28). Click It or Ticket is a high visibility enforcement and public awareness campaign aimed at saving lives by increasing the number of Delawareans who regularly buckle up.

Awareness efforts will begin the week of February 15th and will focus on information related to night time seat belt use. For example: more than half of the people killed in night time crashes from 2003 – 2007 in the First State were not wearing seat belts. The public awareness component of the campaign will include statewide placement of billboards, radio, and television ads, and the distribution of informational posters, fliers and table tents through schools, corporations, businesses, hospitals and police agencies. These materials can be obtained by contacting OHS at 302-672-7635 or Merritt Burke at the University of Delaware Cooperative Extension at 302-856-7303.

Stepped up enforcement of Delaware’s seat belt and child restraint laws will start on the 22nd of February and continue through the 28th. State, county, and municipal police agencies throughout Delaware will conduct both roving, and stationary traffic safety patrols in well lit areas during this time, and will be on the lookout for those who violate Delaware’s occupant protection laws. Officers will also be on the lookout for impaired and aggressive drivers, who also are less likely to wear seat belts.

The law allows officers to pull over a driver if he sees any person in the vehicle not wearing a safety belt. Officers will issue citations for seat belt violations as part of a zero tolerance policy. The ticket, which goes to the driver no matter who is unbuckled in the vehicle, is a $25.00 fine plus court administrative fees.

Delaware’s child restraint law says that the driver is responsible for making sure all children in the vehicle are properly buckled up. All children under the age of 8 years or 65lbs must be in the appropriate child restraint seat (an infant, toddler or booster seat). Children who are 8 or at least 65lbs in weight, whichever comes first must be restrained in a seat belt. Children under the age of 12 years old must ride in the back seat when passenger air bags are present up front. Child restraint violations are also $25.00 plus court administrative fees.

Last February during the night time Click It or Ticket initiative, police officers statewide issued 372 citations for violations of Delaware’s seat belt law. Additionally, 30 arrests were made for criminal violations such as impaired driving, drug offenses, and the existence of outstanding warrants on a person.

Click It or Ticket has been successful in raising seat belt use in Delaware from 67% in 2001 to an all time high of 91% in 2008. The national seat belt use rate is 82%.

For more information on Delaware’s seat belt law or the Click It or Ticket campaign, please visit the Office of Highway Safety’s website at www.ohs.delaware.gov and click on the Click It or Ticket icon.
Child Safety Seats Save Lives

By: Sean M. Elwell, RN, CPST-I

Sean Elwell is chairman of Safe Kids New Castle County, and Injury Prevention Coordinator for AI DuPont Hospital for Children.

Car crashes remain the number one killer of children under the age of 14 in the United States, including here in Delaware. Safe Kids Delaware is committed to decreasing these deaths by educating parents and caregivers to ensure that all children are correctly restrained in the appropriate restraint system for their age and size every time they are in a motor vehicle. From November 17-20, Safe Kids Delaware hosted a child passenger safety technician course. The purpose of this four-day course was to certify participants as child passenger safety technicians. Once the students have completed the class they are able to educate parents and caregivers on the proper way the child restraint should be installed in the vehicle and the proper way to restrain the child. Six students from throughout the state successfully completed the course. On the final day of the course a community safety seat check was held. During this three-hour child safety seat check, the newly trained technicians were able to educate 29 families on child restraints.

Here are some helpful tips from Safe Kids for restraining your children:

- All children ages 12 and under should ride in the back seat.
- Infants should be in rear-facing child safety seats until at least 20 pounds and at least 1 year old.
- Children over 1 year old and between 20 and 40 pounds can be in forward-facing child safety seats, or in rear-facing convertible seats if the child has not reached the maximum rear-facing weight.
- Children ages 4 to 8 (about 40 to 80 pounds) should be in a booster seat and restrained with lap and shoulder belts every time they ride.
- Read your child safety seat instruction manual and vehicle owner’s manual carefully for proper installation of a child restraint.
- Replace any child safety seat that has been involved in a crash.
- Be familiar with your state’s child restraint laws. In Delaware, children must be restrained until the age of 7 or 65 pounds.

For more information on available child safety resources in your community, feel free to call Safe Kids New Castle County, 302-856-KIDS (5437).

Don’t take chances with your child’s life. Buckle yourself and your child on every trip, no matter the distance. It could save your life.


For assistance in Sussex County, please contact either of the following Certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians:

- Mike Love
  - mlove@udel.edu
  - (302) 856-2585 x583
- Merritt Burke, IV
  - merritt@udel.edu
  - (302) 856-2585 x584
Trauma Surgeons “Lose Control” with the SIDNE Demonstration!
By: Alene W. Honecker, Bayhealth Medical Center

The afternoon of Halloween 2008 was an exciting day for Bayhealth Medical Center, Milford Memorial Hospital. Trauma team members joined Merritt Burke and SIDNE on the hospital’s parking lot to educate Bayhealth employees about the dangers of drinking and driving. For those of you who are not familiar with the SIDNE, allow me to explain. Mr. Burke sets up a rather elaborate obstacle course using orange traffic cones. A participant is given instruction to take the go-kart around the course one time, maintaining full control of SIDNE. Once the participant is starting the second go ‘round, Mr. Burke takes over the steering, braking and accelerating capability using a remote control. It is truly disconcerting! Several trauma surgeons were surprised at how alarming it was to feel out of control in the little go-kart. A real feeling of impairment is obvious to the driver!! Although it is fun and full of laughter, the experiences were taken quite seriously by all. SIDNE was a “smash”! What a terrific tool for educating anyone who drives a vehicle. Whether for the high school student just learning how to drive or the expert, it is imperative to understand the dangers of driving while impaired. I look forward to participating again in many future demonstrations. Although alcohol related traffic deaths for 2008 are down from last year (42 for 2008 from 54 in 2007) it is programs like this that need to continue and grow. SIDNE is terrific!

Designated Drivers Do Make a Difference
By: Pam Tyson, Director of Community Outreach, HERO Campaign

Seven easy words and one simple action could save hundreds of innocent lives each year…. “Be a HERO. Be a Designated Driver®.” This is the message promoted by the Ensign John R. Elliott HERO Campaign for Designated Drivers®.

The HERO Campaign was developed by Muriel and Bill Elliott of Egg Harbor Twp, NJ in the Fall of 2000 to honor their son John who was killed by a drunken driver in July 2000 when driving home for his mother’s birthday. Ensign Elliott had recently graduated with merit from the Naval Academy and was planning to attend flight school in the fall. While at the Academy, John was named the Outstanding Human Education Resource Officer (HERO) in his graduating class.

Since it's inception, the HERO Campaign has been adopted by the US Navy; has spread its message through professional sports teams like the Philadelphia Phillies and New York Giants; has been adopted and heavily promoted in the states of New Jersey, Delaware and Virginia; and has been actively promoted at many colleges and universities including the Naval Academy, Monmouth College, Drexel, University of Delaware, University of Maryland and many more.

Two of the most recent events include: the US Navy adopting the HERO Campaign; and being involved in the NASCAR Tailgate City driven by Ford in New York City. Both of these venues are a great way to get the message out to thousands of people.

Concerning the US Navy adopting the HERO Campaign,: “I am glad we are able to bring this to a level we only dreamed of years ago,” according to Bill Elliott. “John would have accomplished great things in his life. Now is our chance to do something great in his memory.”

Speaking about the NASCAR Event: “Champions Week is the perfect time to remind people to buckle up and “Be a HERO. Be a Designated Driver,” stated New Jersey Governor Corzine. Just as NASCAR drivers are champions, so are the designated drivers who make sure their friends arrive home safely.

As we go into 2009, our goals are to continue to spread the message to as many people as possible through events, the media, local establishments, local HERO Chapters and thousands of motivated citizens who want to make our roads safer.

How you can help:
• Be a HERO. Be a Designated Driver
• Make arrangements for a sober designated driver before you go out.
• Get your local schools and governments involved with the HERO Campaign.

For more details log onto www.herocampaign.org or email info@herocampaign.org
The B4UDrink Educator

B4UDrink is an interactive program developed by The Century Council in conjunction with the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, to educate the user about how alcohol consumption affects an individual's Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC). B4UDrink is available here in English and Spanish as an interactive Virtual Bar, or as a simple program accessible on your mobile device at B4UDrink.Mobi. By entering your gender, weight, and the number and type of drinks you plan to consume, you can quickly learn how alcohol affects your BAC. The Virtual Bar also shows information regarding your state laws for drinking and driving, the effects of alcohol at various BAC levels, how food impacts BAC levels and how alcohol affects friends differently.

### Sussex County CTSP Calendar of Events

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>February 3</td>
<td>Super Bowl Sunday Impaired Driving Mobilization</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 18-19</td>
<td>Click It or Ticket Night Time Mobilization</td>
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<td>March 1</td>
<td>32nd Annual Delmarva Safety Association Seminar</td>
<td>Clarion Resort Hotel, Ocean City, Maryland</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 3-7</td>
<td>Child Passenger Safety Technician Training Course</td>
<td>Milford, DE</td>
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<td>For more information contact Mike Love at <a href="mailto:mlove@udel.edu">mlove@udel.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>March 10-17</td>
<td>St. Patrick's Day Impaired Driving Mobilization</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 19</td>
<td>Delaware Office of Highway Safety Corporate Outreach Program Meeting</td>
<td>Dover, DE</td>
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<td>For more information contact Trish Bachman at (302) 672-7635</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 29-April 1</td>
<td>2009 National Conference on Highway Safety Priorities (Lifesavers Conference)</td>
<td>Nashville, TN</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.lifesaversconference.org">www.lifesaversconference.org</a></td>
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### Informative Websites:

- University of Delaware Cooperative Extension [www.rec.udel.edu](http://www.rec.udel.edu)
- DE Safe Kids Coalition [www.usa.safekids.org/state_display.cfm](http://www.usa.safekids.org/state_display.cfm)
- For information on impaired vision goggles and the SIDNE go-kart: [www.fatalvision.com](http://www.fatalvision.com)
- HERO Campaign [www.herocampaign.org](http://www.herocampaign.org)
- Virtual Bar Educator [www.b4udrink.org](http://www.b4udrink.org)
- Delaware YMCA [www.ymcade.org](http://www.ymcade.org)

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