



South Central Safe Community Partnership

The Official Transportation Safety Newsletter of the South Central Region of Louisiana

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SCSCP highlights solidifying efforts at the 11th Traffic Safety Summit

Safety folks discuss ways to improve roadways

At the 11th Traffic Safety Summit held on July 13, 2011 at Nicholls State University's (NSU) Cotillion Ballroom in Thibodaux, the South Central Safe Community Partnership (SCSCP) gave emphasis on how efforts may be actualized and solidified through collaborative and proactive approach.

SCSCP, which is administered by the South Central Planning and Development Commission (SCPDC) in Houma, has once again brought together a good mix of multidisciplinary groups to discuss ways on improving roadways. Themed as "Driving Forward: Solidifying Efforts to Improve Traffic Safety", the summit was attended by 95 safety folks, cops, traffic engineers, caregivers and parish leaders. They all convened for open discussions, safety presentations and outdoor exhibits. The event has been funded by the Louisiana Highway Safety Commission (LHSC) since 2000 through the Safe Communities Grant.

Honored guests, LHSC Deputy Director Kenneth Trull and Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LADOTD) Secretary Sherri LeBas, gave their welcome and closing remarks, respectively. Both officials affirmed that collaboration was vital in achieving safety goals.

NSU Pastor Tim LaFleur said his opening prayer, followed by the Thibodaux Police Department officers who marched in for the Presentation of Colors. St. Joseph



SCSCP Chairman Greg Hood Sr. moderating the summit

Elementary School's band director Adam Foret segued to sing the U.S. Anthem.

Before officially kicking the event off, SCPDC CEO Kevin Belanger shared his words of appreciation for everybody's efforts in continuously collaborating to build safer communities. SCSCP chairman and summit moderator Retired Captain Greg Hood, Sr. declared that the coalition has gotten bigger. New partners are pitching in valuable efforts to the table. "Besides the usual safety presentations by our invited speakers, we have outdoor exhibitions from Wal-Mart and Motorcycle Awareness Campaign (MAC). We aim to continue solidifying our efforts to educate, enforce, engineer and encourage towards reduction of crashes in our region," Chairman Hood pointed out.

Distinguished presenters were LHSC Program Coordinator Jamie Ainsworth, DOTD Highway Safety Manager Terri Monaghan, Louisiana State Police (LSP) Troop C Commander Capt. Darrin Naquin, ThinkFirst Program Director Donna Cavanaugh, Highway Safety

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MEETING NOTICE

The Safe Community Partnership meets on Thursday, November 17, 2011 at 9:30 a.m. at the Pelican Room of South Central Planning & Development Commission (SCPDC) in Houma.

SCSCP supports "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" campaign

Cops to enforce "No Refusal" Policy at DWI checkpoints

The South Central Safe Community Partnership (SCSCP) is participating the National Impaired Driving Prevention Labor Day Weekend Campaign, which runs from August 19 to September 5, 2011. A few DWI checkpoints are scheduled by various police agencies, with the "No Refusal" Policy being implemented in some areas.

This year's platform, "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over", has similar goals as previous year's tagline "Drunk Driving: Over the Limit, Under Arrest". Designed by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), both campaigns are supported by various safety agencies, including the Louisiana Highway Safety Commission (LHSC) and SCSCP in the hopes of reducing alcohol-related roadway fatalities.

Police officers are patrolling to enforce sober driving. LA State Police (LSP) Troop C Commander Capt. Darrin Naquin and Thibodaux Police Department (TBD) Chief Scott Silverii confirmed that they were going to implement the "No Refusal" Policy on drivers being pulled over at checkpoints. TBD is also planning to do a multi-jurisdictional checkpoint over the Labor Day Weekend. The Houma Police Department (HPD) will assign extra officers for DWI saturation patrols.

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While the Terrebonne Parish Sheriff's Office (TPSO) intends to add DWI patrols to increase enforcement especially around the bayou areas, the Assumption Parish Sheriff's Office (APSO) and Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Office (LPSO) are collaborating to do a joint jurisdictional checkpoint for the Labor Day Weekend.

St. James Sheriff's Office (SJSO) also announced that they will execute roving DWI patrols known as the "Wolf Packs" to expand their area of coverage, thereby gaining better use of manpower. The Lutcher PD will work together with the SJSO on their DWI checkpoints. St. John Sheriff's Office and District Attorney's Office will collaborate on their checkpoints as well.

With constant education and strict enforcement executed by SCSCP's partners such as the LSP, the Sheriff's Offices, District Attorney's and local police agencies, it is anticipated that alcohol fatalities will continue to go down. Drivers are encouraged to take more responsibility of driving sober. Otherwise, cops won't hesitate to pull them over before anything worse can happen.

In 2009, there were 8,976 crashes in Louisiana involving drivers aged between 21 and 34, 47% of such was alcohol-related. Based on Highway Safety Research Group's statistics, there were 46 fatalities in 2010 for South Central Region alone, 37% of which was alcohol-related. Although the rate of fatal crashes involving young drivers and alcohol has declined since 2007, the campaign against drunk driving never stops. **(SCSCP PR)** ✦

Road Safety Facts Employers Must Know For any organization with employees on the roadway

- In 2005, 43,443 people were killed and 2,699,000 were injured in 6,159,000 police-reported motor vehicle crashes. Daily that represents 17,000 reported crashes and 119 deaths.
- Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for all age groups from 3 to 33 years of age. Crashes are the 3rd leading cause of years of potential life lost for all ages combined.
- A typical driver in the U.S. travels 12,000 to 15,000 miles annually and has a one in 15 chance of being involved in a motor vehicle collision each year. With most fleet drivers traveling 20,000 to 25,000 miles or more each year, they have a greater crash exposure.
- The most dangerous part of the day for any employee is the time they spend in their vehicle with a crash occurring every 5 seconds, property damage occurring every 7 seconds, an injury occurring every 10 seconds, and a motor vehicle fatality occurring every 12 minutes.
- Forty-one percent of the average vehicle miles traveled per household are from commuting to and from work (27%) and driving on work-related business (14%).
- In 2000, the economic cost of crashes to employers was \$60 billion resulting in 3 million lost workdays. Two-thirds of the cost (\$40B) was from on-the-job crashes while 1/3 was from off-the-job crashes for employees and their benefit-eligible dependents.
- The average on-the-job crash costs an employer about \$16,500 or just under \$0.16 per mile driven. Crashes involving injuries cost substantially more — \$504,408 for a fatal injury and \$73,750 for a nonfatal injury.
- With over 90 percent of motor vehicle crashes caused by human error, employers with high roadway exposure are at risk for a serious crash resulting in a lawsuit against their organization. Damages awarded to plaintiff's making negligence claims against companies are at an all time high, settlements of \$1 million or more are not unusual.
- The development, implementation, enforcement, and monitoring of a strong driver safety program can protect an organization's human and financial resources. Such a program allows an organization to be proactive in controlling crash risks and is the first line of defense against the potentially staggering costs from motor vehicle crashes involving employees. **(Source: www.trafficsafety.org)** ✦

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Research Group (HSRG) Business Intelligence Initiative Project Manager Mark Verret, Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) Coordinator Rita Stone, State Farm Public Affairs Specialist Molly Quirk, Wal-Mart Safety Manager Scott Reed and LA Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) Director Dr. Marie Walsh.

To gather input from the attendees, four breakout sessions were facilitated by Sgt. Matt Trahan of Troop C, Sgt. Daniel Belanger of Houma PD, Linda Savoie of Office of Public Health, Chief Craig Jaccuzzo of NSU PD, and Dr. Walsh of LTAP. Participants shared ideas on what can be done to re-engineer less safe roads, increase safety awareness, enforce seatbelt use, discourage DWI and distracted driving, and encourage responsible driving. Increasing seatbelt and DWI enforcement activities as well as conducting Road Safety Assessments (RSA) for low-cost engineering improvements were among the plans laid out.

Chief Jaccuzzo sent his police officers headed by Lt. Steve Tullis to help with the summit setup, registration and breakout sessions. Houma PD also sent their Young Marines to provide event assistance. Fenstermaker & Associates helped in capturing the participants' input during the breakout sessions. This year's summit was also supported by KTIB 640 AM Radio, Wal-Mart and NSU Student Union. Next year's summit is targeted around September or November. **(SCSCP PR)** ✦

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Child Passenger Safety



The American Academy of Pediatrics announces the availability of the new and updated manual titled **Car Safety Seats: A Guide for Families**, which helps parents make informed decisions about car seat selection and use. Included in this 32-page brochure is information on the various types of safety seats,

the LATCH attachment system, air bags, car seat recalls, installation tips, and built-in seats offered by auto manufacturers, plus feature comparisons of more than 100 car seats! Visit www.nfaap.org for more info. ✦

✦ Safety Partners in Action ✦

SCSCP's 11th Traffic Safety Summit, July 13

The July 13th Traffic Safety Summit 2011, themed as "Driving Forward: Solidifying Efforts to Improve Traffic Safety", was attended by 95 safety partners. Full event article may be read on Page 1 & 2 of this newsletter. In photos: (1) ThinkFirst Program Director Donna Cavanaugh speaks on seatbelt education and young drivers safety; (2) Thibodaux Police Department officers execute the Presentation of Colors; (3) LSP Troop C Commander Capt. Darrin Naquin talks about impaired driving enforcement strategies; (4) SCPDC CEO Kevin Belanger (leftmost) is flanked by Capt. Naquin, SCPDC Safety Coordinator Rudynah Capone and SCPDC Transportation Division Administrator Leo Marretta; (5) Wal-Mart Transportation's "Committed to Safety" truck promotes "Watch Out for Blind Spots"; (6) SCSCP Chairman Greg Hood Sr. giving a certificate of appreciation to DOTD Secretary Sherri LeBas.



ADAC Memorial Run, June 25

The Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council (ADAC) for South Louisiana conducted a Memorial Run/Walk on June 25, 2011 at the Terrebonne Houma Civic Center to give tribute to two teenagers Raymond Bourg and Lindsey Fontenot who were killed by a drunk driver last year.

ADAC worked with the families of the victims and agency partners to educate the racers and drivers on the consequences of driving while intoxicated. Photo shows ADAC Executive Director Alicia Toups with her father-in-law and ADAC supporter Jimmy Toups, who is holding a safety commodity donated by SCSCP.



Assumption Safety Town, May 2-10

This year, the South Central Safe Community Partnership (SCSCP) supported the Assumption Parish School Board's (APSB) Safety Town event held at Napoleonville Primary School on May 2-10, 2011. Bike helmets, child booster seats and safety commodities were distributed. Safety presentations were also conducted. In photo are LSP Troop C PIO Master Trooper Bryan Zeringue (left) and Office of Public Health's MCH coordinator Linda Savoie (center) handing over a booster seat to one of the participants while Safety Town director Bridget Benoit (right) attends to another participant.



Upcoming Events & Campaigns

Aug. 19-Sept. 5 National Impaired Driving Crackdown



SCSCP's law enforcement partners are cracking down the bayou and river areas of South Central LA from August 19 to Labor Day, September 5, to pull over suspected drunk drivers. A series of DWI checkpoints are conducted within the said period. The "No Refusal" Policy will be implemented by some police departments most especially LA State Police Troop C and Thibodaux PD. Read full article on Page 1-2 of this newsletter. Visit stopimpaireddriving.org.

Aug. 31 & Sept. 10 MADD Facilitator's Class

The Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) will be conducting "Power of Parents, It's Your Influence" classes on Aug. 31 and Sept. 10, 2011, both at 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Classes will be held at 2644 S. Sherwood Forest Plaza in Baton Rouge. For more information, please call Rita Stone at (225) 926-0807.

October 8—Safety Expo at Sears

LSP Troop C, in partnership with Sears, is conducting a Safety Expo on Oct. 8, 2011 at 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Southland Mall in Houma. Plans for child seat check up and other safety education activities are in place. If interested to be part of this event, please call Daniel Bourg c/o SEARS (Loss Prevention) at (985) 873-3225 or 3262.

September 18-24 Child Passenger Safety Week

The South Central Safe Community Partnership (SCSCP) supports NHTSA's celebration of Child Passenger Safety (CPS) Week on September 18-24, 2011. During this period, parents and caregivers are strongly urged to ensure their child seats are properly installed and used in their vehicles based on the best CPS practice recommendations released by NHTSA. Over 90% of child seats are installed improperly or used incorrectly. Visit www.nhtsa.gov.



Walmart Transportation September 24 Seat Check Day at Wal-Mart

In conjunction with NHTSA's National Seat Check Saturday, the SCSCP and safety partners will be conducting a child seat checkup at Wal-Mart in East Houma on September 24, 2011. It's open to the public. More details will be announced soon. For more info, you may contact LSP Troop C's PIO Bryan Zeringue at (985) 857-3683 or bryan.zeringue@dps.la.gov.



October 5—Walk to School Day in Napoleonville

On October 5, 2011, the Assumption Parish Police Jury will join the National Center for Safe Routes to School (NC-SRTS) and other organizations across the nation in celebrating the **2011 Walk to School Day**. This effort has been developed as a part of the SRTS grant that the Assumption Parish Police Jury was awarded by the LA Dept. of Transportation & Development (LA-DOTD) for the construction of sidewalks on LA Highway 1 along the perimeter of Napoleonville

Middle School as well as improvements to the pedestrian footbridge that crosses Bayou Lafourche to LA Highway 308, serving as the walking path for students who attend Assumption High School. The South Central Safe Community Partnership (SCSCP) is proud to announce their collaboration with the Assumption Parish Police Jury, Sheriff's Office, 4-H club, and Napoleonville Middle School Administration and students to implement the educational component of the grant award. By joining together, the goal is to encourage students to walk and bike to school enjoyably, conveniently, and most of all safely. For campaign information from the NC-SRTS, visit www.walktoschool.org. For details regarding the Assumption Parish campaign, please contact Erin Watson at erinwatson@assumptionla.com or (985) 369-7435.

HELPFUL LINKS:

- Louisiana Highway Safety Commission: <http://www.lahighwaysafety.org>
- National Highway Traffic Safety Administration: <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/safecommunities>
- Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development: <http://www.dotd.la.gov>
 - NHTSA Traffic Safety Marketing: <http://www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov>
- South Central Planning and Development Commission -Safe Community Page: <http://www.scpdc.org/?p=752>

HOW TO REACH US: If you want to join the South Central Safe Community Partnership (SCSCP) and attend our future partnership meetings and projects, you may contact SCPDC's Transportation Safety Coordinator Rudynah Capone at (985) 851-2900 or email rudynah@scpd.org. LIKE us on Facebook and FOLLOW us on Twitter.



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