NO REFUSAL POLICY during Holidays

This Holiday Season, the Louisiana troopers and sheriff’s officers are taking “No” for an answer if one is suspected to be driving while intoxicated (DWI). This so-called “No Refusal Policy” is enacted throughout the month of December; it is implemented in Lafourche and Terrebonne as well as some parts of the state. Cops are cracking down from December 16, 2011 up until January 2, 2012 to take drunk drivers off the road.

Louisiana State Police (LSP) Troop C’s Sgt. Jody Blanchard said that with No Refusal Policy, suspected drunk drivers are offered with a breath test. “If they refuse the breath test, then we call the on-duty judge and he'll provide us with a search warrant for that person's urine or blood.” He added that the policy might be turning into a year-round program across the state. In A Christmas Tree Lighting Memorial Ceremony held recently at LSP Troop C Headquarters in Houma, the Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) in partnership with law enforcement agency partners, gathered to light the tree that symbolized their commitment to boost drunk driving enforcement efforts. Bayou Region MADD coordinator Josephine Rodrigue relived the tragic loss of her husband Elgin who was killed by a 21-year-old drunk driver three years ago. “If we can get more drunk drivers off of the road, off of the streets, then another family would not have to go through what me and my family went through.” See Christmas Tree Lighting event photo on Page 3.

For more details on the MADD Bayou Region chapter, please email Josephine at dixiecajuns@hotmail.com. (Article Reference: WGNO News)

LA’s 1st regional transportation safety plan adopted

The South Central Planning and Development Commission (SCPDC) is proud to announce that it has officially adopted the first regional safety plan in the state (based upon the Louisiana’s Strategic Highway Safety Plan). This living document, tagged as the South Central Regional Transportation Safety Plan (SCRTSP), is a collaborative effort between SCPDC, SCSCP, LADOTD, LHSC, and safety stakeholders from the six-parish South Central Region. The SCRTSP aims to reduce roadway fatalities (involving alcohol, seatbelt use, young drivers and infrastructure & operations) by 50% in 2030.
Just as soon as Christmas and New Year festivities are over, football fans are pepped up for the Super Bowl Sunday on February 5, 2012. That’s why, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and safety agencies across the nation are working together towards the Impaired Driving Prevention Campaign from January 2 to February 6, 2012.

We, at SCSCP, fully support this initiative. Let us spread the message: “Fans Don’t Let Fans Drive Drunk”.

SCSCP collaborates with Houma Traffic Management Center

The South Central Safe Community Partnership (SCSCP) collaborates with the Houma Traffic Management Center (TMC) team in ensuring road safety when incidents take place. TMC is operated by the LADOTD and staffed by ABMB Engineers. The TMC provides many services to proactively manage traffic congestion. These services include monitoring traffic cameras to identify traffic incidents, coordination with emergency response agencies to decrease incident clearance times, Amber Alert management, emergency management, bridge and ferry status notification, and traveler information dissemination including Twitter. The program is designed to both route motorists around traffic congestion and reduce the total time of traffic congestion resulting from an incident. Visit www.511la.org for more info.

Louisiana’s Caring Communities Youth Survey (CCYS) is a good resource for safety planners

At a recent South Central Safe Community Partnership (SCSCP) Meeting, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council (ADAC) for South Louisiana’s Executive Director Alicia Toups encouraged planners and advocates to view the Louisiana Caring Communities Youth Survey (CCYS) State Report for 2010 upon planning for safe community development. Conducted by Cecil J. Picard Center for Child Development and Lifelong Learning, University of Louisiana at Lafayette, this survey is designed to assess students’ involvement in a specific set of problem behaviors, as well as their exposure to a set of scientifically validated risk and protective factors. The risk and protective factors have been shown to influence the likelihood of academic success, school dropout, substance abuse, violence and delinquency among youth.

Visit http://www.picardcenter.org/researchareas/qualityoflife/ccys to view the survey.
Wal-Mart: “Committed to Safety” Program

Wal-Mart has consistently been supportive in SCSCP’s regional safety efforts. At recent Child Passenger Safety (CPS) checkup events and safety expos, Transportation safety manager Scott Reed and a team of truck drivers conducted a series of PowerPoint presentations and hands-on demos through their program called Committed to Safety (CTS) which teaches the public about blind spot zones, tailgating, merging and maneuvering around big trucks. Interested learners were given the chance to sit inside the truck and get the actual picture of what the driver can see on the roadway. The CTS implies Wal-Mart’s dedication in working towards reducing the number of accidents and fatalities on America’s roadways. Everyone must learn to share the road and watch out for blind spots. In photo is Joseph Guidry, one of Wal-Mart’s certified Operation Lifesaver presenters, during a child seat checkup event held at East Houma Wal-Mart.

Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD):
Christmas Tree Lighting Memorial Ceremony

November 26, 2011

The Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), in partnership with Louisiana State Police (LSP) Troop C, recently held the Christmas Tree Lighting Memorial Ceremony at Troop C Headquarters in Houma. By lighting the photo-decorated tree, MADD and Troop C expressed their commitment to boost their impaired driving enforcement efforts. In photo are (L-R) WGNO News Reporter Vanessa Bolano, MADD Bayou Region Coordinator Josephine Rodrigue and Troop C Sgt. Jody Blanchard. The event was in time for the “Zero to December” Campaign kickoff which also coincided with the implementation of the “No Refusal Policy” at DWI checkpoints.


The Federal highway Administration recently released a new guide for transportation safety managers to use as they implement the Highway Safety Manual (HSM) available via: http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/hsm/hsm_mgrsguide/

HSM Implementation Guide for Managers: The guide is intended for managers of DOTs charged with leading and managing agencies’ various programs related to the project development process and safety programs. It outlines what the HSM is (and is not), how it ‘fits’ with other core technical documents and policies, and what the potential benefits of its use can be. In addition, HSM Implementation Guide for Managers offers guidance to managers in identifying and overcoming barriers to implementation and integration of the HSM from both within and outside of the agency.
Upcoming Events & Campaigns

Ongoing until 1st week of January 2012
Drive Sober Holiday Campaign

Cops from across the nation, including the South Central Region of LA, are stepping up in their DWI efforts through a massive “Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over” Campaign. State and local law enforcement agencies work together to take drunk drivers off the road. A “No Refusal Policy” at DWI checkpoints is being implemented in Lafourche and some parts of Terrebonne. Sheriff’s Offices and local police departments from Assumption, St. James, St. John and St. Charles are also conducting sobriety checkpoints up until first week of January 2012.

February 1, 2012 @ 10:00 A.M., SCPDC, 5058 West Main St., Houma, LA 70360
South Central Regional Transportation Safety Plan (SCRTSP) Infrastructure & Operations Subcommittee Meeting

This meeting aims to develop a region-wide prioritized list of projects by all six Parishes (Assumption, Lafourche, St. Charles, St. James, St. John and Terrebonne) to be recommended for further road assessment audits and funding through DOTD’s Local Road Safety Program (LRSP). Crash data on local roads have been gathered and reviewed. Initial site visits have been conducted. Each parish will have the opportunity to present their proposed list of data-driven projects. Email rudynah@scpdc.org or call (985) 851-2900 for more info.

February 16, 2012 @ 9:30 A.M.
SCPDC, 5058 West Main Street, Houma, LA 70360
South Central Safe Community Partnership Meeting

This is the coalition’s second quarterly meeting for FFY 2012. Agenda include: Safe Community Mini-Grant Updates; Child Passenger Safety (CPS) Technicians Briefing; Plans for CPS events, Sudden Impact Program and 2012 Traffic Safety Summit; Seatbelt and Alcohol Campaigns from March to May 2012; and Regional Safety Plan Implementation & Funding Ideas. Email rudynah@scpdc.org for more info.

April 3-4, 2012
Louisiana Transportation Safety Summit
Baton Rouge, LA

Traffic safety professionals and partners from all over state are invited to attend the LA Transportation Safety Summit on April 3-4, 2012 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Baton Rouge. Registration is free. Themed as “Destination Zero Deaths: It’s Up to You!”, the event will have general sessions and breakout sessions on the Strategic Highway Safety Plan’s (SHSP) programs. For more information, email Karla.Sibille@la.gov.

September 27, 2012
SCSCP Traffic Safety Summit 2012

The South Central Safe Community Partnership (SCSCP), in cooperation with LHSC and our safety partners, will be holding our yearly Traffic Safety Summit on Thursday, September 27, 2012 at the Houma Terrebonne Civic Center. Please mark this date on your calendar! More details will be announced later. Local and state partners are invited to attend.

Registration is free. For questions, please contact Rudynah Capone at rudynah@scpdc.org or call (985) 851-2900.

HELPFUL LINKS:

- Louisiana Highway Safety Commission: http://www.lahighwaysafety.org
- Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development: http://www.dotd.la.gov
- South Central Planning and Development Commission’s 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@scpdc.org. LIKE us on Facebook and FOLLOW us on Twitter.

SOUTH CENTRAL SAFE COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP
South Central Planning & Development Commission
Physical Address: 5058 West Main Street, Houma, LA 70360
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