



American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators

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FEATURED NEWS

Jurisdiction Response to COVID-19

[Click here](#) to view consolidated information and see how motor vehicle administrations are handling driver licensing and vehicle registration. This document will be updated with the most current information on our [homepage](#).

Motor Vehicle Industry Response to COVID-19 Pandemic

Below are a selection of news articles regarding the effects of coronavirus on the motor vehicle community.

COVID-19 | NATIONAL NEWS COVERAGE

- [Suspended Road Tests Give Teens Easier Route To Licenses](#)
- [Trucking Braces for 'COVID Hangover' and Ongoing Battles in 2021](#)
- [Year in Review: COVID-19, Infrastructure, Regulations Dominate 2020](#)

COVID-19 | REGION 1 NEWS COVERAGE

- [Maine Road Deaths up in 2020 Despite Fewer Motorists Amid Pandemic](#)
- [Registry To Continue Dedicates Service Hours for Those Age 75+ in 2021 \(Massachusetts\)](#)
- [Driver's Licenses for Undocumented Immigrants Delayed in NJ, and State Blames COVID \(New Jersey\)](#)
- [Expiration Dates Extended for Commercial Driver Licenses, Learner's Permits \(Pennsylvania\)](#)

COVID-19 | REGION 2 NEWS COVERAGE

- [Highway Safety Expert Says Pandemic Contributed To Speeding, Distracted Driving \(North Carolina\)](#)
- [Driver's License Expiration Dates Extended Through March 31, 2021 \(West Virginia\)](#)
- [Multiple DMV Regional Offices Operating Through Appointment Only Due To COVID-19 Exposure \(West Virginia\)](#)

COVID-19 | REGION 3 NEWS COVERAGE

- [Midwest States Collaborate on Pandemic Response, Highway Safety](#)
- [With New Rules, Minnesota Driver's License Exams Are Back Online](#)
- [MODOT 'Back on Track' Despite COVID-19, but a Long Road Lies Ahead](#)



WE HAVE A PODCAST!
AAMVA CAST
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and expertise for the AAMVA
Community.

SYSTEMS TRAINING

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JANUARY

12 | [PDPS Update Transactions \(intermediate\)](#)

14 | [PDPS Broken Pointer Management \(intermediate\)](#)

15 | [PDPS Interactions \(intermediate\)](#)

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OUR WEBINARS

JANUARY

5 | [NMVTIS State Web Interface \(SWI\) – Understanding the Administrative Features](#)

12 | [NMVTIS State Web Interface \(SWI\) – How to Correct Title and Brand Data on the Central Site](#)

19 | [NMVTIS State Web Interface \(SWI\) – Instant Title Verification Using the VIN Search Feature](#)

26 | [NMVTIS Compliance and Enforcement](#)

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OPEN RFPs

JANUARY

22 | [AAMVA RFI: Mobile Driver License Digital Trust Service](#)

[\(Missouri\)](#)

COVID-19 | REGION 4 NEWS COVERAGE

- [DMV Will Continue To Suspend Behind-the-Wheel Driving Tests Until January 11 \(California\)](#)

Visit [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov) for more information on [COVID-19](#), [guidance](#), [press releases](#), [press kits](#), and more.

REGION 1 NEWS

Northeast Transportation Climate Initiative Meets Opposition (Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Washington, DC)

An initiative in the U.S. Northeast designed in part to drive reduced carbon emissions in the transportation sector has met opposition from the retail fuels industry...Transportation is responsible for nearly 40% of greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) in the Northeast and mid-Atlantic, according to a release. It said the TCI-P will cut GHG pollution from motor vehicles by an estimated 26% in the region between 2022 and 2032...The opponents argue that the TCI-P will not result in meaningful environmental benefits. [Read more at freightwaves.com](#).

MVA Offers 10 Resolutions for 2021 (Maryland)

As the year comes to a close and Marylanders looking ahead to a fresh start in 2021, the Motor Vehicle Administration has some recommendations for rolling into the new year with the right tools to be prepared and safe. Several are connected to the agency's "Be The Driver" campaign, which encourages motorists to be the driver who always keeps safety in mind, a news release states. [Read more at myeasternshorem.com](#).

NY Road Deaths, Drunk Driving To Spike New Year's: Study (New York)

A new study found that road deaths in New York are expected to increase by over 30 percent during holidays and drunk driving is expected to spike during New Year's. The car shopping service CoPilot this month published the study, which evaluates the states that experience the largest increase in road fatalities during holidays. [Read more at patch.com](#).

Driving Badly in DC? You Might Get a Warning Text. (Washington, DC)

If you're a driver piling up traffic tickets, some researchers believe that you're at a higher risk of being involved in a serious crash. But if those traffic violations happened in DC, you might get a warning first. The District is launching a study that will use predictive modeling to try to identify risky drivers, using data from DC's traffic cameras and crash data. [Read more at ggwash.org](#).

There's an Increase in Alcohol-Related Traffic Deaths in the Washington Metro Area, Study Finds (Washington, DC)

A report released on Monday outlined an increase in alcohol- and drug-related driving fatalities in the DMV area. The 28th annual "How Safe are our Roads?" report was prepared by the Metropolitan Washington Council of

Governments (COG) for the Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP).
[Read more at localdvm.com.](#)

REGION 2 NEWS

North Carolina Governor's Highway Safety Program Is Calling for Applicants

Starting January 1, 2021, the N.C. Governor's Highway Safety Program will be accepting grant applications to fund programs aimed at preventing traffic deaths and injuries on roadways. Submissions must be made no later than 5 p.m. on Jan. 31. [Read more at wtkr.com.](#)

Virginia DMV Looking for Organizations To Apply for Funds via 'Highway Safety Grant' Program

The Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) is calling for organizations to apply for funds under the Highway Safety Grant program. The grants are designed to assist law enforcement agencies, nonprofit organizations, state and local government agencies, and colleges and universities focused on driver safety in the communities. [Read more at wavy.com.](#)

Undocumented Immigrants in Virginia Can Start Getting Driving Credentials Next Month. Here's How It Works.

Starting next month, some undocumented immigrants in Virginia will be able to apply for temporary driving credentials. The change comes from a bill the newly Democratic General Assembly passed earlier this year, and establishes what the state is calling driver privilege cards. [Read more at pilotonline.com.](#)

REGION 3 NEWS

A Deadly Year on Minnesota Highways Nears Its End

Minnesota's year in traffic safety is poised to end on an especially deadly note. A reported 380 road fatalities and counting have been recorded in the state so far this year, according to the Minnesota Toward Zero Deaths initiative. [Read more at twincities.com.](#)

SD Driver's License Written Test To Be Available in Spanish on 1/1/21 (South Dakota)

Come Friday, South Dakota's driver's license written test is going to be available in the Spanish language. The driver's license application as well as the study manual will be available in Spanish along with the written test. [Read more at keoland.com.](#)

REGION 4 NEWS

Western States Traffic Safety Coalition Initiates Special New Year's Eve Safety Effort (Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, Wyoming)

The Washington State Patrol will join agencies from 10 other western states

in a coalition that will step up patrols around New Year's in an effort to reduce impaired driving. Sergeant Darren Wright said state law enforcement agencies worry that many may feel New Year's Eve 2020 is the ultimate party night and engage in risky behavior. [Read more at kpg.com.](#)

Here's a Look at the Personalized Licence Plates Rejected in BC Last Year (British Columbia)

When it comes to creative licence, there's a limit in BC. Drivers in the province have the option to pay a little extra for a custom licence plate, but those proposals still require approval from the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia before they can actually be printed. [Read more at bc.ctvnews.ca.](#)

In California, Little Robot Cars Will Deliver Pizza, Groceries, and Medicine as a Paid Service in 2021 for the First Time

Your groceries, pizza, and medicine can now be delivered via robotic vehicles if you live in California, as Nuro received the state's first commercial permit for autonomous delivery. San Francisco and Silicon Valley's streets have been bustling with self-driving vehicles from an array of companies for years. [Read more at businessinsider.com.](#)

New California Traffic Laws Begin in January. What Drivers Should Know

California has new traffic laws pertaining to good samaritans, cell phone usage and more that are set to go into effect in 2021. The new laws were released mid December by the California Highway Patrol. They kick in Jan. 1, unless otherwise noted. [Read more at desertsun.com.](#)

Here Are New Laws That Go Into Effect in Oregon and Portland in 2021

The new year is right around the corner and with every new year comes new laws...Beginning in the new year, people will no longer have to provide proof of legal presence in the U.S. to get an Oregon standard driver's license or ID card. [Read more at kgw.com.](#)

OTHER NEWS

DHS Modernizes Critical Identification Requirements After Congress Passes REAL ID Modernization Act

As a result of extensive state, industry, and government collaboration, Congress has passed the bipartisan REAL ID Modernization Act. The Act modernizes REAL ID requirements originally set more than 15 years ago. [Read more at hstoday.us.](#)

TIRF USA Releases Road Safety Monitor: Alcohol-Impaired Driving & Risky Driving During COVID-19 in the United States, 2020

The Traffic Injury Research Foundation USA, Inc. (TIRF USA), in partnership with TIRF in Canada and with sponsorship from the Anheuser-Busch Foundation, released the sixth annual Road Safety Monitor (RSM) on alcohol-impaired driving. [Read more at globenewswire.com.](#)

States With the Biggest Increase in Road Fatalities During the Holidays

With air travel still suppressed in the wake of COVID-19, those making holiday travel plans will likely be traveling by car. While reduced public air travel helps to prevent the spread of the virus, increased road travel raises the risk for accidents and road fatalities, making holidays a particularly dangerous time to travel. [Read more at copilotsearch.com](#).

Headlights for 2021 Models Are Better Than Ever, New Ratings Show

When it comes to headlights, less choice may be a good thing. At least that's the take away from a recent evaluation of headlight performance that found that consumers have more new cars to choose from with good base headlight options. [Read more at forbes.com](#).

Volkswagen Has Unveiled an Adorable Autonomous EV Charging Robot for Parking Garages — See How It Works

We've seen autonomous pods with virtual eyes, but now, Volkswagen Group Components has unveiled a prototype of its electric vehicle charging robot with eyes...Volkswagen's new autonomous robots target a specific segment of charging needs. [Read more at businessinsider.com](#).

TWITTER NEWS

Stay on top of the chatter in the MVA and LE community on social media. You may be surprised at what you're missing! Here are a few highlights of last weeks' activity.

GHSA @GHSAHQ | [View the Tweet](#)

Check out how Texas and four other states are partnering with GHSA and @lyft to ensure safe rides home this holiday season:
<https://ghsa.org/resources/news-releases/Lyft-Grants20>.



CHP Headquarters @CHP_HQ | [View the Tweet](#)

This New Year's Eve may look noticeably different than years past. One thing that will look familiar: The California Highway Patrol will be out removing impaired drivers from the road and assisting those in need. #drivesober



Georgia Department of Public Safety @ga_dps | [View the Tweet](#)

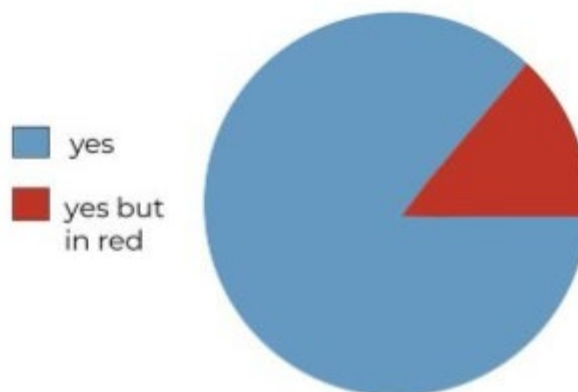
The driver of this CMV, hauling gasoline was distracted and failed to maintain his lane. Don't drive distracted and slow down. #gamccd



PA Department of Transportation @PennDOTNews | [View the Tweet](#)

One simple step could save your life in the event of a crash... Wear your seat belt! Even on short trips, remember to #BuckleUp.

Should you wear a seat belt?



MD_MVA @MD_MVA | [View the Tweet](#)

#ThrowbackThursday to last year's ugly sweater day! Happy holidays from team MDOT MVA.



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