Driver Safety at the MVA

John T. Kuo, Administrator
Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration
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What is Fundamental Purpose of the MVA/DMV/RMV?
The Maryland legislature, by an act effective July 1, 1910 (chap. 207, Laws 1910, p. 77), prescribed a comprehensive scheme for licensing and regulating motor vehicles.

The governor shall appoint a commissioner of motor vehicles, with power to designate assistants, who shall secure enforcement of the statute.

No person shall drive a motor vehicle upon the highway until he has obtained at a cost of $2 an operator's license, subject to revocation for cause (p. 89)....
1910 to 2011

Go Play IN Traffic.

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2009 Scout Coupe MSRP 150
Sleek, elegant, smart, and just plain fantastic. This new two passenger scooter is the latest style of cool and power, redefining everything you need to turn heads.

70–80 Miles per Gallon!
Stereo Type of Motor Vehicle Agencies have caused us to focus predominantly on service goals.
MVA is Focused on Driver Safety

- MVA has developed a comprehensive approach to enhance driver safety to include changes to policies, procedures, laws and regulations
- By educating, training, testing and informing Maryland drivers, we can make difference and help reduce highway crashes, injuries and fatalities.
Creation of a Driver Safety Division

- Formed in June 2008 to refocus MVA’s role in promoting driver safety and ensuring that driver safety is part of everything we do.
- The goal of the division is to maintain a constant focus on improving policies and procedures.
Functions of the Driver Safety Division

- Gather information on best practices, strategies, countermeasures and approaches that could impact driver safety in Maryland.
- Maintains current statistics and analysis regarding driver safety issues.
- Works to improve MVA’s policies forward consistent with research and best practices.
- Supports research efforts that focus on improving driver safety.
What Did We Do? New Driver Education Regulations

- Key Enhancements Effective November 2008:
  - Continuing education for all instructors
  - Requires parent orientation course
  - Monitoring of instructor driving record
  - Instructor fingerprint background checks
  - Electronic submission of student completion data
  - Strengthens sanctions for instructors and school owners
  - Immediate suspension for most serious violations
Driver Education Curriculum

- New Curriculum Implemented October 1, 2009
  - Based on American Driver and Traffic Safety Education Association (ADTSEA) Curriculum
  - Maryland specific laws and regulations
  - Updated resource list for instructors
  - Greater flexibility in delivery methods
First state to conduct a driver education assessment in the country - Fall 2010.

Sponsored by NHTSA along with driver education experts throughout the country to analyze Maryland’s current program and make recommendations concerning:

- Program Administration
- Education and Training
- Instructor Qualifications
- Parent Involvement
- Coordination with Driver Licensing
On-Road Driving Test

- The on-road test evaluates general driving ability, including awareness of hazards and other drivers, understanding traffic signals, ability to maneuver curves, intersections and change lanes.
- Consists of an on-course component and an on-road component based on National standards.
- Pilot tested on-road test from Winter 2008 through Spring 2010 was fully implemented at all branch offices September 2010, without any additional resources.
Recent Graduated Licensing Revisions

- Learner’s permit expiration increased from 1 year to 2 years.
- Time required to hold a learner’s permit increased from 6 months to 9 months.
- Provisional license age increased to 16 years, 6 months
- Full license age increased to 18 years.
Recent Graduated Licensing Revisions

- Federal background checks required for driver education instructors.
- Probation before judgment restarts the clock for graduation to the next license level.
- Withdrawing parent consent cancels license.
- Stricter sanctions for repeat violations.
- Creation of a young driver improvement course.
Revised Driver Handbook

- New driver’s manual implemented Summer 2011.
- Updates focus on key information new drivers need to know prior to obtaining a learner’s permit
  - Signs, signals and pavement markings
  - Driving situations and conditions
  - Dangerous driving behaviors
  - Sharing the road
  - Crashes and traffic stops
  - Licensing restrictions and penalties
Updated test questions will be implemented Fall 2011.

New question pool will focus on basic, critical knowledge requirements for new drivers.

- Based on National standards for question categories
- Includes signs, rules of the road, and safe driving practices
- Includes questions related to major contributing factors in young driver crashes in Maryland: not paying attention, driving too fast for conditions, and failure to yield right of way
Revising Knowledge Test

- New question pool directly correlates to the content in the revised driver handbook.
- New test questions were written in a precise, straightforward, uniform manner.
- New test questions have been reviewed and validated to ensure clarity and accuracy.
- Increasing the number of questions from 20 to 25.
Parent Involvement Initiative

- Grant funded through the Maryland Highway Safety Office.
- Created a brochure called **YOU Hold the Keys** about the importance of parents getting involved and staying involved with their teen drivers to include:
  - What you can do as a parent
  - Understanding the risks
  - The importance of being a role model
  - Teen brain development
MVA Supports the SHSP

- The Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) is a statewide, coordinated, comprehensive, traffic safety plan that provides the framework for reducing highway fatalities and serious injuries on all public streets and highways.

- It establishes the overall goals and objectives as well as objectives and strategies within each of the seven key emphasis areas.
SHSP Emphasis Areas

- Reduce Impaired Driving
- Improve Information and Decision Support Systems
- Eliminate Hazardous Locations
  - Keep Vehicles on the Roadway
  - Improve Safety at Intersections
  - Create Safer Work Zones
  - Make Walking and Crossing Streets Safer
- Increase Occupant Protection
SHSP Emphasis Areas

- Improve Driver Competency
  - Reduce Distracted Driving
  - Enhance Safety for Older Drivers
  - Develop Safe Young Drivers
  - Improve Motorcycle Safety
  - Make Truck and Bus Travel Safer
- Curb Aggressive Driving
- Improve Emergency Response System
**MVA’s Role in the SHSP**

- Team leader for aggressive driving emphasis area
  - Lead the development of the strategies and action steps
  - Track progress on implementation
  - Participate in quarterly meetings

- Aggressive driving objectives
  - Reduce aggressive driving fatalities by 12.5% from 225 in 2008 to 197 in 2015.
  - Reduce aggressive driving injuries by 12.5% from 14,034 in 2008 to 12,280 in 2015.
Governor’s Highway Safety Representative

- As a result of the MVA’s focus and leadership in the area of driver safety, for the first time in history of Maryland the Highway Safety function will be transitioned under the oversight of the MVA.
- This position will allow the MVA to play an even greater role in driver, vehicle & overall highway safety going forward.
What is this all about? Driving Towards Zero Deaths!