

September 12, 2014 - Regional News

AAMVA News

2014 Fraud Detection & Remediation (FDR) Annual Report

The 2014 FDR Annual Report is now available! With information compiled from the 2014 FDR Annual Survey, the FDR Annual Report will keep you informed about the continued growth and evolution of one of AAMVA's most widely-accessed programs. Learn how other jurisdictions are utilizing the eLearning courseware, browse best practices, and get a preview of 2015 enhancements! Access the report [HERE](#).

<http://www.aamva.org/WorkArea/linkit.aspx?LinkIdentifier=id&ItemID=5637&libID=5613>

Region I

Parent's Supervised Driving Program Receives National Honors (Maine)

The Governor's Highway Safety Association today awarded Safe Roads Alliance with the 2014 Peter K. O'Rourke Special Achievement Awards which is given each year to recognize notable achievements in the field of highway safety. Safe Roads Alliance, in partnership with the Maine Department of the Secretary of State, Bureau of Motor Vehicles, launched The Parent's Supervised Driving Program in an effort to improve teen driver safety. Read the press release on Maine.gov.

<http://www.maine.gov/tools/whatsnew/index.php?topic=Portal%20News&id=627747&v=article-2014#sthash.3HanSORu.dpuf>

State of Maryland Extends the Vehicle Inspection Contract to Envirotest

Envirotest, Corp., subsidiary of Opus Inspection, has received an extension of its contract to provide Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program services for the State of Maryland, Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA). The amendment will extend the contract until September 30, 2019. Read the full story at News.Cision.com.

<http://news.cision.com/opus-group/r/state-of-maryland-extends-the-vehicle-inspection-contract-to-envirotest,c9638763>

Christie Administration Makes Special License Designation Available to Insulin-Dependent Diabetics (New Jersey)

The Christie Administration today announced that insulin-dependent drivers and non-driver ID holders now have the option to indicate their medical status on their driver's license or ID card so that law enforcement can quickly identify their condition should they become unable to communicate in an emergency situation. Read the MVC press release.

<http://www.state.nj.us/mvc/PressReleases/archives/2014/090414.htm>

First-Time DUI Offenders Could Be Required to Install Breath-Test Machines (Pennsylvania)

First-time drunken drivers could be forced to take a breath test every time they start their car under a bill being considered by lawmakers eager to respond to a series of shocking fatal accidents involving repeat drunken drivers. Read the full story at DailyItem.com.

http://www.dailyitem.com/news/article_203b3d98-3892-11e4-9ad1-0019bb2963f4.html

Some Pennsylvania Drivers Must Now Pass A Physical At License Renewal Time

When your Pennsylvania driver's license comes up for renewal, you may find there is an additional requirement. The Mature Drivers Re-examination Program requires some motorists over the age of 45 to undergo a physical examination as a condition for license renewal. Read the full story at VenangoCountyDailyNews.com.

<http://venangocountydailynews.com/some-drivers-must-now-pass-a-physical-at-license-renewal-time/>

Region II

North Carolina DMV Charges Man with Altering Cars' Mileage and Titles

State investigators have charged a former Raleigh man with changing car odometers and altering their titles from February 2012 until earlier this year and selling them for prices ranging from about \$2,000 to as much as \$5,000. Read the full story at NewsObserver.com.

http://www.newsobserver.com/2014/09/10/4138484_dmv-charges-man-changed-mileage.html?sp=/99/102/110/113/&rh=1

'Pastafarian' Allowed to Wear Spaghetti Strainer on her Head in Driving Licence Photo Because it is Classed as 'Religious Headgear' (Oklahoma)

A female driver in Oklahoma was allowed to pose for her driver's license wearing a spaghetti strainer on her head because it falls under the state's rules for religious headwear. Read the full story in the DailyMail.co.uk.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2747880/Pastafarian-allowed-wear-spaghetti-strainer-head-driving-licence-photo-classed-religious-headgear.html>

Texas Again Debating Whether to Give Driver's Licenses to Illegal Immigrants

The State of Texas is again debating whether to grant driver's licenses, or some form of driver's license, to illegal immigrants, Newsradio 1200 WOAI reports. Read the full story at WOAI.com.

<http://www.woai.com/articles/woai-local-news-sponsored-by-five-star-cleaners-119078/texas-again-debating-whether-to-give-drivers-licenses-to-illegal-immigrants-12741003/#ixzz3CjzXfd00>

Fairfax County Teacher Pushes for Childhood Cancer License Plate to Bring Funding, Awareness (Virginia)

September is Child Cancer Awareness Month and during the month there is a push to get a special license plate that would help raise money to research childhood cancer. Read the full story at WTOP.com.

<http://www.wtop.com/41/3697282/Fairfax-County-teacher-pushes-for-childhood-cancer-license-plate-to-bring-funding-awareness-#ixzz3CjxzNkGH>

Following Protest, Saturday Voter Registration Remains at DMV (Virginia)

Voter registration will continue on Saturday mornings at the Department of Motor Vehicles office in Woodbridge, thanks in part to a small but impassioned protest staged during a Prince William County Board of Elections meeting Friday. Read the full story at InsideNova.com.

http://www.insidenova.com/headlines/following-protest-saturday-voter-registration-remains-at-dmv/article_80041022-35d3-11e4-ae8d-001a4bcf887a.html

Region III

MPI Simulator Shows Risks of Texting and Driving (Manitoba)

A new campaign from Manitoba Public Insurance is showing young drivers the dangers of texting and driving. A new state-of-the-art simulator was shown off on Tuesday, giving a few motorists a chance to try their skills using their cell phone while also maintaining their vehicle in a digital environment. Read the full story at Chrisd.ca.

<http://www.chrisd.ca/2014/09/09/manitoba-public-insurance-texting-driving-simulator-winnipeg-video/>

Lebanon Car Dealer Indicted for Fraudulent Titles, Falsified Mileage on Dozens of Vehicles (Missouri)

Tammy Dickinson, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced today that a Lebanon, Mo., automobile dealer has been indicted by a federal grand jury for a mail fraud scheme in which he sold dozens of vehicles with fraudulent titles that greatly underreported the actual mileage of the vehicles. Read the full story at Justice.gov.

<http://www.justice.gov/usao/mow/news2014/smith.ind.html>

NSP Crime Lab Receives International Accreditation (Nebraska)

On September 3, 2014, the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors/Laboratory Accreditation Board (ASCLD/LAB) granted ASCLD/LAB- International accreditation to the NSP Crime Laboratory in the field of Forensic Science Testing. ASCLD/Lab-International is granted for a period of four years. The NSP Crime Lab has been an ASCLD/LAB accredited facility since 2004. Read the NSP press release.

<https://statepatrol.nebraska.gov/articleDetails.aspx>

Random Vehicle Safety Inspections Come to Region (Ohio)

Twice this week state troopers have conducted random vehicle safety inspections in the area, stopping drivers and checking vehicles for tire condition, wipers, lights and other safety features. Read the full article in Dayton Daily News.

<http://www.daytondailynews.com/news/news/random-vehicle-safety-inspections-come-to-region/nhJyD/>

The Parent's Supervised Driving Program Receives National Honors (Wisconsin)

The Governor's Highway Safety Association today awarded the Wisconsin Department of Transportation's Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) program, The Parent's Supervised Driving Program, with the 2014 Peter K. O'Rourke Special Achievement Award which is given each year to recognize notable achievements in the field of highway safety. Read the DOT press release.

<http://www.dot.state.wi.us/news/releases/025-nr20140909.html>

New Process will Assist Voters in Obtaining State ID Cards (Wisconsin)

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation's Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and Department of Health Services (DHS) Vital Records Office have joined together to put a new process in place that will help citizens get a state identification card (ID) for voting without paying government fees. Read the DOT press release.

www.dot.wisconsin.gov/news.

Region IV

Arizona Vehicle Theft Task Force Thwarts High-End Vehicle Theft Ring

SWAT teams with the Goodyear Police Department and the Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS), along with detectives from the Arizona Vehicle Theft Task Force (AVTTF), served three search warrants early this morning netting 16 vehicles valued at over \$400,000 and the arrest of two suspects. Read the DPS press release.

http://www.azdps.gov/Media/News/View/?p=502&utm_content=srior%40aamva.org&utm_source=VerticalResponse&utm_medium=Email&utm_term=http%3A%2F%2Fwww%2Eazdps%2Egov%2FMedia%2FNews%2FView%2F%3Fp%3D502&utm_campaign=Arizona%20Vehicle%20Theft%20Task%20Force%20Thwarts%20vehicle%20theft%20ring

New Tax Bill Takes Aim at Hybrid Car Drivers (California)

A controversial bill to replace California's gas tax is gaining momentum across the state. Senate Bill 1077 proposes for drivers to pay tax per each mile they drive instead of state taxes applied per gallon at the pump. Read the full story at Fox5SanDiego.com.

<http://fox5sandiego.com/2014/09/08/new-tax-bill-takes-aim-at-hybrid-car-drivers/>

DMV Worker Sentenced in Fake License Plot (California)

A former employee of the Department of Motor Vehicles was sentenced Friday to three years in prison for his role in a \$50,000 conspiracy to sell driver's licenses to motorists who either failed the tests or declined to take them altogether. Read the full story at UTSanDiego.com.

<http://www.utsandiego.com/news/2014/sep/05/dmv-bribery-sentence-drivers-license-bednarek/>

DMV Fees to be Raised to Fight Crime: County Sheriff Wants Extra Money for Vehicle Theft Task Force Efforts (California)

Vehicle owners might need to open their wallet a sliver wider come registration time if county officials sign off on a plan to increase fees to combat theft. The annual fee will increase one dollar for each vehicle registered in San Mateo County under a plan Sheriff Greg Munks will present Tuesday morning to the Board of Supervisors. Read the full story at SMDailyJournal.com.

<http://www.smdailyjournal.com/articles/news/2014-09-08/dmv-fees-to-be-raised-to-fight-crime-county-sheriff-wants-extra-money-for-vehicle-theft-task-force-efforts/1776425129715.html>

Petersen Leaving Montana MVD

Molly Petersen, Technical Writer for the Montana Motor Vehicle Division and Region IV PACE/CSD Committee Chair is leaving her current position. She's accepted a job as Public Information Specialist for the Montana Department of Revenue. Her last day with MVD will likely be the 26th. We wish Molly the very best of luck in her new role and thank her for her energetic and creative assistance over the last few years.

Oregon Could Be the Next State to Let Undocumented Immigrants Get Licenses

Oregon voters will decide in November whether they want to join 10 states that issue government-issued driver's licenses or cards to undocumented immigrants. Oregon Gov. John Kitzhaber signed a bill into law last year that would have made four-year driver cards available to residents, regardless of their immigration status. Read the full story at Governing.com.

<http://www.governing.com/topics/public-justice-safety/gov-oregon-immigrant-driver-ballot.html>

Other News

GM to Introduce Hands-Free Driving in Cadillac Model

General Motors Co. (GM), the largest U.S. automaker, will introduce a Cadillac model in two years that can travel on the highway without the driver holding the steering wheel or putting a foot on a pedal. Read the full story at Bloomberg.com.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2014-09-07/gm-to-introduce-hands-free-driving-in-cadillac-model.html>

Honda Recalls 126,000 Motorcycles for a 2nd Time

Honda Motor Co. is recalling 126,000 motorcycles for a second time because their brakes can malfunction. The recall covers Honda's GL-1800 motorcycles for model years 2001-2010 and 2012. A problem with the secondary brake master cylinder can cause the rear brake to drag, potentially leading to a crash or fire. Read the full story at Chron.com.

<http://www.chron.com/news/us/article/Honda-recalls-126-000-motorcycles-for-a-2nd-time-5738294.php>

Growing Base of Safe Second-hand Vehicle Choices (New Zealand)

New Zealand's fleet of second-hand vehicles is growing safer as revealed in the latest release of the Used Car Safety Ratings guide today. The Used Car Safety Ratings guide is updated every year and provides guidance on the performance of more than 220 models based on real world crash data in New Zealand and Australia. Read the full article in The New Zealand Herald.

http://www.nzherald.co.nz/motoring/news/article.cfm?c_id=9&objectid=11321270

A Look At Some Of General Motors' Safety Concepts And Breakthroughs Over The Years

General Motors has long been at the forefront of developing automated, intelligent and connected cars. The automaker recently announced it will be implementing its Super Cruise and vehicle-to-vehicle technology on certain future Cadillac models, but GM has been envisioning a world with connected cars and safer roads ever since the Firebird II Concept Vehicle (above) was introduced in 1956. Read the full article on gmauthority.com.

<http://gmauthority.com/blog/2014/09/a-look-at-some-of-general-motors-safety-concepts-and-breakthroughs-over-the-years/#ixzz3D7B35on0>

Toyota Investing \$35 Million to Connected-Vehicle Safety Research

During its Advanced Safety Seminar in Ypsilanti, Mich., Toyota announced it would be putting an additional \$35 million toward automated- and connected-vehicle safety research over the next six years. Read the full story at RoadsBridges.com.

<http://www.roadsbridges.com/connected-vehicles-toyota-investing-35-million-connected-vehicle-safety-research>

More Crashes and Convictions for Teens that Skip Driver's Ed

Although vehicle crashes remain the leading cause of death for teens, fewer new drivers are participating in what used to be considered a rite of passage – driver education. State funding and requirements for these programs have declined over recent decades, leaving uneducated teen drivers vulnerable on America’s roads. New research from the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety reveals that teens that skip this important step are involved in more crashes and receive more traffic convictions compared to their peers that participated in driver education. Read the AAA press release.

<http://newsroom.aaa.com/2014/09/back-driving-school-crashes-convictions-teens-skip-driver-ed/>

Did You Know

DISTRACTED DRIVING

- In 2012 an estimated 421,000 people were injured in car crashes involving a distracted driver. That was up 9 percent from the 387,000 a year earlier—an increase of 34,000 injuries.
- In both years, about 3,300 people died. It’s nearly certain that the actual number of distraction-caused injuries and deaths is even higher than the reported figures.
- Drivers in their 20s make up 27 percent of the distracted drivers in fatal crashes.
- Ohio State researchers showed that phone-related injuries to pedestrians doubled from 2005 to 2010—and they expect those numbers to double again when the 2010-15 data come out. Young people aged 16 to 25 were most likely to be hurt.
- Scientists at the University at Buffalo showed that distracted walking accounts for as much as 10 percent of all pedestrian visits to the emergency room.
- Some major cities such as London have started placing bumpers on light posts so texters won’t knock their heads when blindly walking into them.
- A study at Stony Brook University showed that distracted walkers veered off course 61 percent more of the time and overshot their target (like the end of a sidewalk) 13 percent more often than when they were not distracted.
- The Department of Transportation estimated about 660,000 Americans were on their phones while driving at any point during the day across the country. And that was in 2011—when Apple sold only about 18 million iPhones per quarter. Contrast that with even larger sales now, about 40 million per quarter.

Learn more:

- Distracted Driving, Facts and Stats (Distraction.gov) <http://www.distraction.gov/content/get-the-facts/facts-and-statistics.html>
- Distracted Driving in the United States and Europe (CDC) http://www.cdc.gov/motorvehiclesafety/distracted_driving/
- Distracted Driving (National Safety Council) http://www.nsc.org/safety_road/Distracted_Driving/Pages/distracted_driving.aspx
- Distracted Driving (AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety) <https://www.aaafoundation.org/distracted-driving>