

January 16, 2015 - Regional News

AAMVA News

2015 Workshop & Law Institute Online Registration is Now Open



Registration is now open for AAMVA's 2015 Workshop & Law Institute, in Fort Worth, Texas, March 18-19. Take advantage of this unique opportunity to network with colleagues from other member jurisdictions across the U.S. and Canada, as well as industry organizations that provide the products and services you may need. Visit the [Workshop & Law Institute Web site](#) for more details.

<http://www.aamva.org/2015-Workshop-and-Law-Institute-Home/>

Awards Program Submissions Due February 14th

AAMVA's updated awards program fosters a tradition of excellence in the motor vehicle and law enforcement community. The awards allow AAMVA to honor individuals, teams and organizations who have committed their time and resources to safety initiatives, outstanding customer service, and public affairs and consumer educational programs throughout North America. Awards are presented both at the regional and international levels. Learn more about the new AAMVA Awards Program and download submission forms online at www.aamva.org/AAMVA-Awards/. Submission forms for the awards are due February 14, 2015.

Region I

Maryland Offers Grants to State and Local Groups for Traffic Safety

On January 7, 2015, the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration's Highway Safety Office (MHSO) will begin taking grant applications for traffic safety projects to occur in FFY 2016. The MHSO is responsible for administering grant funded programs that address priority areas such as impaired driving prevention, occupant protection, aggressive driving prevention, distracted driving prevention, and the safety of pedestrians, bicyclists, motorcyclists, younger drivers and older drivers. Grants will also be awarded to projects that are focused on improving Maryland's traffic records systems and record-keeping, and other projects that enhance the safety of Maryland's motoring public. Read the press release.

<http://www.mva.maryland.gov/about-mva/press-releases/2015/150105.htm>

Legislation Adding One-Year Extension to Driver's License Photos for Cancer Patients Signed into Law (Massachusetts)

Legislation sponsored by Rep. Claire D. Cronin and Sen. Thomas P. Kennedy adding a one-year extension to driver's license photos for residents who have lost their hair due to an illness has been signed into law by former Governor Deval Patrick. Read the full story at Easton.WickedLocal.com.

<http://easton.wickedlocal.com/article/20150113/NEWS/150118745#sthash.gsxFDdV1.dpuf>

Region II

KYTC Secretary Hancock Receives Award for Leadership on National Transportation Issues (Kentucky)

Kentucky Transportation Secretary Mike Hancock has received a national award for his leadership on U.S. highway transportation issues. Secretary Hancock, a career engineer for the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC), recently completed a term as president of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO). His most recent honor is the Lester P. Lamm Memorial Award, presented annually to a public servant who has exhibited leadership and dedication to U.S. highway transportation programs. The award is named in honor of a longtime executive of the Federal Highway Administration who later was president of the Highway Users Federation. Read the full press release.

<http://transportation.ky.gov/Pages/PressReleasePage.aspx?&FilterField1=ID&FilterValue1=114>

DMV Celebrates Success with New Partnerships in 2014 (Virginia)

The Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) celebrated a banner year in 2014 with new initiatives to improve customer service, increase energy efficiency and further assist veterans transitioning back to civilian life. DMV was able to implement many of these innovations through successful partnerships with state and federal agencies. Read the DMV press release.

http://www.dmv.state.va.us/general/news/pressReleases/#/Recent_News

Region III

Rauner Plans to Appoint Police Commander Leo Schmitz for State Police Job (Illinois)

The director of the Illinois State Police is resigning, and a Chicago police commander could take over the position. NBC 5 has learned that Governor-Elect Bruce Rauner plans to appoint Chicago Police Commander Leo Schmitz to the position. If selected, Schmitz will fill the position previously held by Hiram Grau. Read the full story at NBCChicago.com.

<http://www.nbcchicago.com/blogs/ward-room/Rauner-Nominates-Police-Commander-Leo-Schmitz-to-Take-State-Police-Job-288156631.html#ixzz3OprRQRry>

DOT Enlists Truck Drivers Against Human Trafficking (Iowa)

When Iowa Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle Enforcement Officer Neil Suckow inspects a semi, he looks for typical things such as deflated tires, working brake lights and up-to-date licenses and

registration. But as he wraps up each inspection, he calls attention to something different — human trafficking. Read the full story at TheGazette.com.

<http://thegazette.com/subject/news/iowa-department-of-transportation-enlists-truck-drivers-against-human-trafficking-20150113>

Commissioner Dohman Appoints Kelly Director of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, Langer Chief of the Minnesota State Patrol

Kelly has served as the Deputy Director of DPS/HSEM for the last four years, directing response support and recovery operations for six federal and two state declared disasters. He was also responsible for implementing the state's new disaster assistance program. Read the DPS press release.

<https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/ooc/news-releases/Pages/Commissioner-Dohman-Appoints-Kelly-Director-of-Hokend-Security-and-Emergency-Management,-Langer-Chief-of-the-Minnesota-Stat.aspx>

Minnesota Traffic Deaths Continue Downward Trend in 2014

Last year marked continued progress in improving traffic safety on Minnesota roads as preliminary data reveal traffic deaths falling to a near record low. According to the latest preliminary numbers from the Minnesota Department of Public Safety (DPS) Office of Traffic Safety, 356 people lost their lives in 2014 crashes. DPS projects a final number of 370 road fatalities after final statistics are evaluated. This would be the second lowest number since 1944 when 356 people lost their lives. Read the DPS press release.

<https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/ooc/news-releases/Pages/Minnesota-Traffic-Deaths-Continue-Downward-Tred-in-2014.aspx>

Commercial Drivers Get Help with Paperwork Through New 24/7 Online Driver License Guide (Wisconsin)

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) offers a new online service designed for the unique needs of commercial drivers. The Driver License Guide now enables drivers, even fleet owners, to check their eligibility and status and ensure they have the proper endorsements. Read the DOT press release.

<http://www.dot.state.wi.us/news/releases/017-co-dmv.htm>

Governor, Lawmakers Walk Away from Gas Tax Hike (Wisconsin)

Gov. Scott Walker and his fellow Republicans in the Legislature are walking away from a gas tax hike proposed by Walker's transportation secretary. Transportation Secretary Mark Gottlieb in November recommended increasing taxes and fees by \$751 million over two years to help pay for roads. Read the full story at JSOnline.com.

<http://www.jsonline.com/news/statepolitics/walker-lawmakers-walk-away-from-gas-tax-hike-b99422932z1-288160331.html>

Region IV

Motor Vehicle Division Pushes Alternate Driver's License Path (Arizona)

Students who undergo training at state-approved driving schools will now be able to receive training-completion certificates that may waive written and road tests at Motor Vehicle Division offices. However, there are requirements that driving-school students must meet, according to the Arizona Department of Transportation. Read the full story at [YourWestValley.com](http://www.yourwestvalley.com).

http://www.yourwestvalley.com/valleyandstate/article_02db9f30-9bb2-11e4-8f49-9b58b67d34b7.html?mode=print

California Lawmakers Try to Protect Personal Data Privacy

Lawmakers in Sacramento are trying to tackle the growing issues related to personal data privacy. Assembly Speaker Toni Atkins has created a new Assembly committee on privacy and consumer protection. Read the full story at [KFBK.com](http://www.kfbk.com).

<http://www.kfbk.com/articles/kfbk-news-461777/california-lawmakers-try-to-protect-personal-13145084>

Courthouse Sting Nets Six Drivers on License Violations (California)

Santa Rosa police cited six people on suspicion of driving violations Wednesday during a courthouse sting aimed at keeping unlicensed and unsafe drivers off the road. Read the full article in [The Press Democrat](http://www.pressdemocrat.com).

<http://www.pressdemocrat.com/news/3385250-181/courthouse-sting-nets-six-drivers>

Supreme Court Won't Hear Dispute Over DUI Blood Tests (Colorado)

The Supreme Court won't hear an appeal from Colorado officials who want to make it easier for authorities to take blood samples from suspected drunk drivers without their permission or a warrant. Read the full story at [WSBTV.com](http://www.wsbtv.com).

<http://www.wsbtv.com/news/ap/political/supreme-court-wont-hear-dispute-over-dui-blood-tests/njmNT/>

Fargo Takes New Approach to Taxi Regulations (North Dakota)

The city's proposed new taxi laws will accommodate new technology trends in the taxi industry but, in some cases, what it requires from taxi companies won't be that different. Read the full article on [inforum.com](http://www.inforum.com).

<http://www.inforum.com/news/3656733-fargo-takes-new-approach-taxi-regulations>

New Online Tool Helps Truck Drivers Plot Route, Avoid Bridge Strikes (Washington)

A new online tool allows truck drivers to more easily research bridge heights – and potential conflicts – before they hit the road. Read the DOT press release.

http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/News/2015/01/15_newbridgemappingtool.htm

Other News

Texting and Driving? Your Next Car May Come with a Punishment Device

As cars and trucks get smarter, auto manufacturers are struggling to find a balance between passenger safety and the increasing consumer demand for entertainment and communication. Read the full story at Fortune.com.

<http://fortune.com/2015/01/08/texting-and-driving-your-next-car-may-come-with-a-punishment-device/>

Uber, Lyft, Airbnb Harness Users to Lobby Lawmakers for Them

As Uber, Lyft and Airbnb battle regulators worldwide, they can summon a powerful weapon: battalions of loyal users — drivers, passengers, hosts and guests — who swarm lawmakers with e-mails, petitions, rallies, testimony and tweets supporting the companies. The three exemplify a new generation of technology that upends traditional businesses like taxis and hotels. Read the full story at GovTech.com.

<http://www.govtech.com/applications/Uber-Lyft-Airbnb-Harness-Users-to-Lobby-Lawmakers-for-Them.html>

NTSB: Distracted Driving Among Top 10 Transportation Safety Challenges

There are plenty of transportation safety challenges on the roads and rails regulators need to more quickly address, according to the National Transportation Safety board that today issued its annual “Most Wanted List” which amounts to the agency’s top 10 list of transportation safety concerns. While 4 new issues made the list for 2015 -- rail tank car safety, strengthening compliance, trucking safety, medical fitness -- at the top of the list remains distracted driving. Read the full article in Network World.

<http://www.networkworld.com/article/2868452/security0/ntsb-distracted-driving-among-top-10-transportation-safety-challenges.html>

Study Says Teen Drivers At Risk In Older Cars

When your child gets old enough to get behind the wheel lots of parents go for an older used car, but a study by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety finds teenagers are more likely to die in crashes driving older cars than middle aged drivers. Read the full article on WSET.com.

<http://www.wset.com/story/27724170/study-says-teen-drivers-at-risk-in-older-cars>

Immigrants Can Now Get Mexican Birth Certificates in US

For Mexicans living in the U.S. illegally and hoping to stay in the country under President Barack Obama's new immigration policy, things just got one step simpler. On Thursday, the Mexican government began issuing birth certificates to its citizens at its consulates in the United States. That will make it a little easier for Mexicans hoping to obtain U.S. work permits, driver's licenses and protection from deportation. Read the full article on abcnews.com.

<http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/immigrants-now-mexican-birth-certificates-us-28252142>

Google Ends Glass Sales, but Aims to Relaunch a New Version Later

Google is ending its Glass Explorer program, halting sales of the wearable computer eyeglass device that stirred conflict in the Bay Area with its release, according to the BBC. Read the full story at BizJournals.com.

<http://www.bizjournals.com/sacramento/blog/morning-roundup/2015/01/google-ends-glass-sales-but-aims-to-relaunch-a-new.html>

Did You Know

KEEPING THE ROADS CLEAR: THE SCIENCE OF WINTER ROAD MAINTENANCE

- When pavement is frozen it forms a molecular bond with water and ice. Breaking that bond requires lot of salt. Salt dissolves into ice molecules and lowers the temperature at which they will melt, keeping more ice from forming on roads.
- Chemical concentration, pavement temperatures, weather conditions, type of road surface, topography, traffic volume, width of application, and, most importantly, time of chemical application all affect the process of melting snow and ice.
- If the bond between the snow and the pavement is stopped before it starts, a coating effect makes the snow slide off the pavement, and four times less salt is needed.
- Changing ice or snow into water requires heat from the air, the sun, the pavement, or traffic friction.
- At temperatures below 15 degrees Fahrenheit, the salt is mixed calcium chloride or magnesium chloride. This mixture releases energy when mixed with water, creating instant heat to melt ice.
- Applying chemicals during blowing snow and cold temperatures will cause drifting snow to stick to the pavement. If chemicals are not used, the dry snow is likely to blow off the cold road surface.
- Adding carbohydrates can increase the stickiness of salt brine. Sometimes organic materials, such as liquid sugar beet derivatives or whey from cheese-making facilities, reduce the amount of corrosion from the salt, keep it working at lower temperatures and make the coating last longer.
- Snow melts faster when salt is applied in narrow strips. If you concentrate spreading (windrowing), you can expose a portion of road surface to the sun quickly, allowing it to absorb heat and increasing the melting rate.

Learn more:

- Getting Salty With Winter Road Maintenance (Inside Science)
<http://www.insidescience.org/content/getting-salty-winter-road-maintenance/1124>
- Using Salt and Sand for Winter Road Maintenance (U.S. Roads)
<http://www.usroads.com/journals/p/rmj/9712/rm971202.htm>
- Winter Road Maintenance: Best Practices, Emerging Challenges, and Research Needs (Best Thinking - Engineering)
http://www.bestthinking.com/articles/engineering/civil_engineering/transportation_engineering/winter-road-maintenance-best-practices-emerging-challenges-and-research-needs
- Winter Maintenance and Effects (Western Transportation Institute)
<http://www.westerntransportationinstitute.org/research/winter/default.aspx>
- High-tech road science: Where nano meets pavement (Physics Central)
<http://physicscentral.com/explore/action/roadscience.cfm>