Fraud Detection and Remediation (FDR) E-Learning Has Been Updated for 2019

The updated Fraud Detection and Remediation (FDR) courseware package (January 2019 version) is now available to member jurisdictions! FDR is AAMVA's most widely-accessed voluntary program. The 2019 Annual Update features a number of important enhancements and new information including: Consular Report of Birth Abroad Content, Vehicle Fraud Material, US Passport Annotations, and more. AAMVA has developed an FDR Implementation Tutorial to accompany the printed Implementation Guide. Read more here.

AAMVA Awards Program 2019 – DEADLINE EXTENDED

AAMVA's new online awards application is a big hit – so much so that we're extending the deadline for 2019 entries! Don't miss this opportunity to be recognized for the great work your jurisdiction does every day.

The award submission deadline has been extended to MONDAY, JANUARY 14, 2019. Submit an entry today! If you have started an entry, please be sure to log back in and complete your submission.

The AAMVA Awards Program recognizes members of the motor vehicle and law enforcement community by honoring individuals, teams, and organizations who have committed their time and resources to the following categories: Safety, Service, Security, Public Affairs & Consumer Education (PACE), and International Driver Examiner Certification (IDEC). AAMVA Awards are open to all AAMVA jurisdiction members that are in good standing. Entries submitted for the 2019 Awards must have been conducted (produced, implemented, and/or developed) between October 1, 2017 and September 30, 2018. If an entry won an award in 2018, it cannot be resubmitted in 2019 unless it has major upgrades or developments.

Award entries must be submitted through the new online portal. No mail-in entries will be accepted. Go to AAMVA Awards Program for info on logging in or contact awards@aamva.org with questions.
Despite concerns about driver texting and inattention, the number of highway deaths in Maine in 2018 was among the lowest in 60 years, officials say. As of New Year's Day, there were 140 deaths on Maine roads over the past year, which is 33 lower than the 173 recorded in the previous year, said Stephen McCausland, spokesman for the Maine Department of Public Safety...Part of the reason is likely that more people are surviving crashes thanks to new safety features in cars. There were also significant reductions in the number deaths of pedestrians and younger drivers between 16 and 19, said Lauren Stewart, director of the Maine Bureau of Highway Safety. Read the article at apnews.com.

**Traffic Deaths in New Jersey Down by Biggest Rate in a Decade**

For the first time in five years, the number of people killed in car crashes fell in New Jersey in 2018. Preliminary data compiled by the State Police indicate there were 564 traffic fatalities last year, which is 9.6 percent fewer than in 2017 and represents the biggest single-year drop in a decade...While the number of people killed in cars -- drivers and passengers, combined -- was back around its smallest level in the modern era at 373, the number of pedestrians killed by cars declined only slightly from its quarter-century high. Read the article at nj1015.com.

**Traffic Deaths in New York City Drop to 200, a Record Low**

The number of traffic deaths in New York City dropped in 2018 to the lowest level in more than a century, a sign of progress for Mayor Bill de Blasio’s plan to eliminate fatalities on the city’s streets. The news, however, was not all promising: Although overall deaths declined, the number of pedestrians killed in traffic increased last year, city officials said on Tuesday...The reduction is part of a five-year decline from 299 deaths in 2013, the year before Vision Zero began and the speed limit on most streets was lowered to 25 miles per hour. Read the article at nytimes.com.

**R.I. Traffic Fatalities Down Overall in 2018, but Deadly Motorcycle Crashes Increase (Rhode Island)**

Rhode Island saw fewer traffic fatalities in 2018 than last year, but more than in the previous three years before that. From Jan. 1 to Thursday, 58 people died in car, pedestrian, bicycle or other crashes involving vehicles, according to preliminary data provided by the Rhode Island Office of Highway Safety. That is fewer than the 81 people who died last year, but more than the 49 in 2016, 44 in 2015 or 47 in 2014. 'The reality is, we can’t be everywhere all the time, but we try to get the message out there all the time,' said Col. Ann C. Assumpico, the outgoing superintendent of the Rhode Island State Police. That message: buckle up, drive sober and safe, and put down the phone. Read the article at providencejournal.com.

**Do You Know the Real Cost of a DWI? (Arkansas)**

If you think getting a cab or Uber is too pricey, think again. Paying for a $1,000 DWI fine is nearly equivalent to taking a cab from Little Rock to Atlanta at the $2 per mile rate. A common issue on New Year’s Eve is drunk drivers on roads. But, do you know the real cost of a DWI? Read the article at thv11.com.

**Here Are the Most Popular Southwest Florida License Plates in 2018**

Florida's Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles offers hundreds of specialty license plates, and many of the purchasers donate money to specific causes. About 118,100 Southwest Florida motorists are driving around the state’s roads with 137 varieties of these plates as of December 2018, DHSMV data shows. The top 10 in Lee and Collier counties mostly went to help Florida’s sea life — fitting for 2018 because Southwest Florida has been plagued by powerful red tide.
and blue-green algae blooms for much of the year — with helping sea turtles the top choice. Read the article at news-press.com.

AAA, Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles Want Drivers to Move Over
AAA issued a reminder on Wednesday that January is ’Move Over’ month in the Sunshine State. AAA and the Auto Club Group showcased the ’Slow Down, Move Over’ law which ’requires passing motorists to give adequate space to law enforcement, tow truck drivers, utility service vehicles and other first responders that are stopped on the side of the road.’ Read the article at floridadaily.com.

Kentucky to Gradually Phase in New Licenses, Travel IDs in 2019
Kentucky's new driver's licenses will be available in 2019, but not every county will provide them at the start of the year. The change, which is in compliance with the Real ID Act, will come about in phases. Sister station WKYT reports the state is expected to release a list in the next few weeks to let counties know when to start updating licenses. The Real ID Act requires identity checks and security features that Kentucky licenses do not have. The updated licenses will appear in larger counties first to make sure the new systems work. Read the article at wymt.com.

REAL ID Act Letter Landing in Mailboxes of Many Texas Drivers
Thousands of Texas residents are receiving letters from the department of public safety warning that their driver’s licenses are about to expire. Many people are receiving these letters even though their licenses are still valid for more than a year or two. But, there is an explanation. DPS is in the process of implementing The REAL ID ACT program, which will require many Texans to get an updated ID to travel and go into federal buildings. Read the article at kwtx.com.

Houston Region on Track for Fewer Roadway Deaths in 2018 (Texas)
Driving in the nation’s most dangerous major metro got considerably safer in 2018, a preliminary analysis of crashes shows, and officials are pledging more efforts to reduce roadway risks in the new year. Though a few dozen late December fatalities are likely not reported to the state’s system, the nine-county Houston region is virtually assured of having its lowest number of roadway deaths since 2013 when 592 fatalities were recorded. As of Dec. 28, the Texas Department of Transportation’s Crash Records Information System listed 536 fatalities in the Houston region, which includes Harris County, its seven adjoining counties and Austin County to the west. Read the article at houstonchronicle.com.

Iowa Could See its Lowest Number of Traffic Deaths in over 70 Years
This New Year’s Eve, the Iowa Department of Transportation message board reads, ’315 traffic deaths this year.’ As it stands, that is the lowest number in more than seven decades...The last time Iowa was even close to this number it was back in 2013 at 317 deaths. Hoye says several factors go into this low number, including steps that legislation made. Read the article at whotv.com.

Driver’s License or Other Form of ID Now Required to Vote in Iowa
Starting this year, Iowans will be required to show a driver's license or another form of ID at the polls before they vote. As part of the state's voter ID law, all registered
voters will have to show some type of identification at polling places. Read the article at whotv.com.

**MnDOT Launches Truck Parking Technology to Help Drivers Find Safe Parking Spaces (Minnesota)**

Minnesota is one of eight states participating in the country's first multi-state truck parking information management system that launched today to help truck drivers find safe and legal parking. The Minnesota Department of Transportation installed the technology at six rest areas in the state. A seventh rest area will go online next spring. Read the article at dot.state.mn.us.

**New Nebraska Child Restraint Law Takes Effect Jan. 1**

A new child restraint law soon to take effect in Nebraska increases the age in which children must be secured in safety seats and requires them to be seated in the back seat. The changes...are aimed at improving highway safety and remove some ambiguity from the current law, which was last updated in 2002, said Mark Segerstrom, road safety project coordinator at the Nebraska Safety Council. Read the article at southernminn.com.

**Alaska’s Real ID Program Has Begun. Here’s What You Need to Know.**

After more than a decade of opposition from state lawmakers, the federal Real ID program has arrived in Alaska. On Wednesday, the Alaska Division of Motor Vehicles began issuing licenses that follow federal guidelines approved by Congress under the Real ID Act of 2005. Alaskans will have until Oct. 1, 2020, to get a new driver’s license, according to the DMV and the Department of Homeland Security, which administers the program...The DMV is excited to announce that Real IDs are available across the state of Alaska starting today, Jan. 2. The best thing that people can do to be prepared when they come into the DMV is to have the proper documentation, which they can research by visiting our website and going through our Real ID checklist' said Jenna Wamsganz, deputy director of the Alaska DMV. Read the article at adn.com.

**Skip the Line: California Drivers Can Now Do More at DMV Self-Service Kiosks**

For many people, nothing can ruin a day quite like standing in line at the DMV. The California Department of Motor Vehicles knows how frustrating waiting for your number to be called can be — so they introduced self-service kiosks. At the kiosk drivers can instantly get their vehicle registration and license plate stickers without having to stand in line for hours at a time. In 2019, the DMV is making customer visits even more convenient, by adding more services to the kiosks. Read the article at abc10.com.

**Changes to DMV for Immigrants Designed to Streamline Process (Colorado)**

A new law that takes effect on New Year’s Day is designed to streamline the process for those immigrants seeking driver’s licenses. That change involves using Social Security numbers instead of other documentation. As of Jan. 1, 2019, Colorado residents can use their Social Security number to get a driver’s license, permit or identification card at four of 36 DMV locations in the state. The Social Security number can also be used to renew the license online. Read the article at cbslocal.com.

**Law Allowing Motorcycles on Some Shoulders Starts This
Year (Hawaii)
In the new year, motorcyclists in Hawaii might have their travel time reduced by a law that will designate the shoulders of some roads as traversable by motorcycle. House Bill 2589, which passed in the Legislature earlier this year without the signature of Gov. David Ige, authorizes the state Department of Transportation to designate certain roads’ shoulders as legally drivable by two-wheeled motorcycles. The bill was introduced with the goal of improving safety for motorcyclists. Read the article at westhawaiitoday.com.

New Tools and Training to Fight Drug Impaired Driving (Saskatchewan)
With one of the highest impaired driving rates in Canada, the battle against influenced drivers in Saskatchewan is top of mind. Recently, SGI made it clear that police officers have new tools in their fight against drunk or drug-impaired driving. On December 18th, federal legislation went through that allows Canadian officers to demand a roadside breath sample from any driver who has been lawfully stopped. In 2019, there are also more ways officers will be able to combat drug-impaired drivers. They already have been trained and certified to perform Drug Recognition Evaluations and Standardized Field Sobriety Tests, roadside saliva testers to detect recent drug use are also expected to be in the hands of police agencies across the nation and Saskatchewan in the New Year. Read the article at swiftcurrentonline.com.

Oregon Proposes Lowering Drunken-Driving Limit to .05, Following Utah
If a proposed Oregon bill passes, the state may join Utah in lowering the legal standard for driving under the influence to .05 percent. A 160-pound man would hit the limit with three drinks in one hour, while a 120-pound woman would after one or two drinks. Oregon followed Utah’s footsteps 35 years ago when it moved from a blood alcohol content limit of .10 to the now nationally recognized .08 maximum. Oregon Senate President Peter Courtney plans to introduce a bill that once again adopts Utah’s regulations, where the nation’s strictest limit became effective Sunday. Read the article at usatoday.com.

The Least and Most Dangerous States for Drunk Driving
Drunk driving poses a very real danger – around the world, and in the United States. But as with most things, not all states are equal in this matter. Based on statistics from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Safewise has revealed the states in our union that have the highest and lowest rates of death by impaired driving. And the figures are startling: while one state had just 1.38 deaths per 100,000 people from drunk driving, the bottom had five and a half that number. Read the article at carbuzz.com.

Cannabis Perceived as Less Dangerous Than Liquor When it Comes to Driving: Study
With cannabis legalization still fresh on the scene, a new study from the Canadian Automobile Association [CAA] shows many young drivers aged 18 to 34 feel they’re better able to drive after consuming cannabis than alcohol...According to a recent Statistics Canada report, roughly one in seven drivers with valid licenses reported driving within two hours of consuming cannabis. The study showed that people who smoke cannabis regularly were nine times more likely to drive than those who didn’t. Read the article at globalnews.ca.

The Auto Industry Said Goodbye to a Lot of Cars in 2018
In 2018, the U.S. automotive industry began to say goodbye to one of its longest-
enduring products: the car. Both Ford Motor Co. and General Motors said they were going to nearly eliminate their production of sedans and coupes to concentrate on the much-more profitable production of sport utility vehicles and trucks. Read the article at bizjournals.com.

**TWITTER NEWS**

@AAMVAConnection has been watching the twitter feed and decided to highlight some of the tweets here. Links are provided within most of the tweets, and we have also provided a link to each tweet as well. Note that you do not have to have an account or sign in to Twitter to view the message posts, images associated with the post, and the reach of the message (retweets, favorited, etc.).

Stay on top of the chatter in the MVA and LE community. You may be surprised at what you're missing! Follow @AAMVAConnection.

Check out recent @AAMVAConnection Twitter action.

***Thank you for the @AAMVAConnection mentions!***

**Indiana BMV @INBMV | View the Tweet**
Stay safe and sober while driving this holiday season! Happy holidays from the Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles!

**MontanaHighwayPatrol @MTHwyPatrol | View the Tweet**
Happy New Year from all of us at MHP! We might not have fireworks, but we've got these cool road flares! #NewYearsDay #MTNYE
New Jersey MVC @NJ_MVC | View the Tweet
We're bidding #retiring Deputy Administrator of Agency Services Bob Grill farewell after 30+ years w/MVC. Bob's many accomplishments include work on everything from the digital driver license program to organ donor registration. We thank Bob for his service & wish him the best!
TN Highway Patrol @TNHighwayPatrol | View the Tweet
Good morning, happy Thursday! It's a wet, windy AM so let's be as visible as possible, slow down and be alert. And remember, every day is a terrible day to take the #birdbox challenge while commuting.