



THE SAFETY NET

A newsletter of the Delaware Department of Safety and Homeland Security

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Our mission is to promote and protect the safety of people and property in Delaware

NEW LAW ENHANCES OPERATION OF 800 MHz SYSTEM

For the past several years, much work has been done to improve the State's 800 MHz system. New towers were constructed throughout the State and new equipment was installed to improve in-building communications for emergency responders.

Governor Ruth Ann Minner recently signed legislation to further enhance our statewide emergency communications system as an extension of the work now underway through the Next Generation 800 MHz Project. This new legislation ensures the quality of the State's 800 MHz system by maintaining in-building communications and preventing dead zone areas.

This legislation now sets a standard for newly constructed buildings in excess of 25,000 square feet or similar-sized buildings undergoing renovations to ensure that our emergency responders can send and receive communications within the buildings. If developers, contractors or builders do not naturally meet the standard required for effective communications, they must obtain equipment ranging from an antennae to a repeater system to meet that standard. In addition, the issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy for new buildings hinges on the adherence to the new law.

An important component of this enhancement is that it brings government and private industry together with one standard.



Standing behind Gov. Minner, (l-r) Governor's Policy Advisor Terry Pepper, Div. of Communications Operations Manager Bob Gates, DSP Sgt. Richard Dennis, DSHS Secretary David B. Mitchell, Tucker Dempsey of the DVFA, Div. of Communications Director Bob Pedersen, DSHS Deputy Secretary Elizabeth Y. Olsen and OMB Facilities Management Director Bob Furman .

With both groups working together, it ensures that our citizens and those who respond to help them during emergencies will be safer. ♦

DATE CONDUCTS ENFORCEMENT SWEEPS

In August, Division of Alcohol and Tobacco Enforcement (DATE) agents tested 45 licensed liquor retailers in the beach area to identify businesses that sell alcohol to underage patrons. Of the businesses tested in the Lewes, Rehoboth Beach, Dewey Beach, Bethany Beach and Fenwick Island area, only one sold alcohol to an underage cooperating witness. This resulted in a 98% compliance rate among retailers which is the best compliance rate the Division has achieved during its annual beach operations. Officers employed by police agencies in the beach area assisted DATE with the compliance checks.

STATE SEAT BELT USE RATE INCREASES TO 87%

More Delawareans than ever are buckling up! Office of Highway Safety officials have announced that Delaware's statewide seat belt use rate has now climbed to 87%. The increase in seat belt use was determined by the results of observational surveys conducted at 82 sites statewide in early June at the conclusion of the 2007 *Click It or Ticket* campaign. Kent County had the highest observed seat belt use rate at 90%. The Sussex County and New Castle County seat belt usage rates were 88% and 86% respectively.



MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY

As summer comes to a close and we move into fall, I ask that each of you make time to think about your own personal safety. This is the time of year, when we often see a change in weather patterns for our State. We are in the midst of hurricane season and it is extremely important that we stay prepared for the unexpected.

During DEMA's recent Weather Summit, participants saw the damage and destruction caused by the Great Storm of 1962. Delaware's beach area was hit by 4-foot waves destroying the Boardwalk and beachfront homes. Sand dunes were flattened along the entire length of Delaware's ocean coastline. With the tremendous growth in the beach area, a storm of this magnitude could cause catastrophic damage and put numerous lives at risk. It has been many years since Delaware was impacted by a major hurricane. But, it could happen here.

As the State's public safety agency, it is even more important that DSHS employees make certain their families are prepared. During a large scale emergency, many DSHS employees will lead rescue and recovery activities that will take them away from their families. It will be extremely difficult for our agency to serve the citizens of this State, if our families' needs are not met.

The key to successfully coping with and managing large scale emergencies is preparedness. Most of you know this, but the challenge is always getting started. So, I ask, have you taken the necessary preparedness steps?

Do you have your emergency supply kit? Do you have an emergency plan? Are you aware of the threats facing your community?

There are numerous resources available through the Delaware Emergency Management Agency, Delaware Citizens Corps, the Department of Homeland Security and the American Red Cross to help you get started. *Secretary David B. Mitchell*

PERSONAL EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

GET A KIT When preparing for a possible emergency situation, it's best to think first about the basics of survival: fresh water, food, clean air and warmth.

MAKE A PLAN Your family may not be together when disaster strikes, so it is important to plan in advance: how you will contact one another; how you will get back together; and what you will do in different situations.

BE INFORMED Learn more about the potential emergencies that could happen where you live and the appropriate way to respond to them. In addition, learn about the emergency plans that have been established in your area by your state and local government. Knowing what to do during an emergency is an important part of being prepared and may make all the difference when seconds count.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS WEB SITES

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

<http://www.ready.gov>

Delaware Emergency Management Agency (DEMA)

<http://www.state.de.us/dema/disprep/supplykit.htm>

EMERGENCY KIT CHECKLIST

One gallon of water per person, per day.

Non-perishable, high-protein food items: energy bars, ready-to-eat soup, peanut butter, etc.

Flashlight, radio and extra **batteries**.

First aid kit - non-prescription and prescription medications, band-aids, thermometer, antiseptic towelettes, etc.

Tools - wrench, screwdriver, manual can opener, pliers, duct tape, etc.

Clothing and bedding. Consider sturdy shoes and gloves.

Personal items including eyeglasses, contact lenses and solution, anything you might need for children.

Important papers such as birth certificates, insurance information, immunization records, identification cards, emergency contact list. Consider storing these items in a waterproof portable container

Sanitary items and **special items** for infants, the elderly or disabled.

Cash. During a power failure, credit cards and ATMs won't work.

Plans for your pets. Pets are not allowed to join families in evacuation centers.

Map. You may need it to locate alternative routes. Mark a possible evacuation route as well. ♦ Source: American Red Cross

TAKE THE CITIZENS CORPS READINESS TEST

Go to www.WhatsYourRQ.org

Take the online survey. Find tips and links to info & resources to raise your scores.

GOVERNOR RECOGNIZES DSP EMPLOYEE FOR SERVICE



Governor Ruth Ann Minner recognized Constance Dick for 56 years of distinguished State Service. Constance, an administrative assistant with the Delaware State Police since June 1951, made history in that she is the longest serving State employee. Constance has served her entire career at DSP Troop 4 in Georgetown and earned several honors over the years including the DSP 1995 Civilian of the Year. Pictured are Sec. Mitchell, Constance Dick, Col. MacLeish, Sen. Thurman Adams, Gov. Minner, and Rep. Joseph Booth.



DUI CHECKPOINT IN MEMORY OF DSP CPL. CHRISTOPHER SHEA

On July 20, the Delaware State Police and the Office of Highway Safety conducted a dedication ceremony for the Cpl. Christopher Shea DUI Checkpoint. The ceremony, held at Troop 7, was attended by DSP Administration and patrol officers, MADD and OHS representatives. Immediately following the ceremony, 12 DSP troopers conducted a DUI checkpoint on Route 1 south of Milford stopping 1,200 vehicles. Five drivers were detained and two DUI arrests were made. Two suspects were arrested on a total of six drug charges including possession with the intent to distribute marijuana.

DEMA WEATHER SUMMIT

The Delaware Emergency Management Agency (DEMA) hosted its annual Weather Summit Conference. Several guest speakers provided information on emergency preparedness and weather forecasting. Robert Latham, retired director of Mississippi Emergency Management Agency, shared many lessons learned as his state struggled to recover from Hurricane Katrina. WBOC TV16 Chief Meteorologist Dennis Ketterer spoke about the work involved in developing the daily forecast as a television meteorologist. Joe Miketta of the National Weather Service spoke about what Delaware might expect for the 2007 Hurricane Season. Tony Pratt of DNREC presented the film "The Great Storm of 1962" and discussed the storm's impact on the State. Delmarva Power and Delaware Electric COOP provided information on electrical recovery following an emergency.

HIGHWAY SAFETY NEWS

OHS TURNED UP THE SUMMER HEAT

For the second year in a row, OHS officials along with state, county and municipal law enforcement "turned up the HEAT" on traffic violators in Delaware this summer. The high visibility traffic safety initiative aimed at reducing traffic deaths and injuries is called the "120 Days of Summer HEAT" (Highway Enforcement of Aggressive Traffic). It unifies Delaware's three primary safety campaigns conducted during the summer months—*Click It or Ticket*, *Checkpoint Strikeforce* and the *Stop Aggressive Driving* campaign. During the first year of the enforcement initiative officers from law enforcement agencies statewide made 225 DUI arrests, 983 aggressive driving arrests, and issued 2,930 seat belt citations.



DELAWARE UPGRADES CHILD RESTRAINT LAW

Delaware has upgraded its child restraint law to better protect older children riding in motor vehicles. All children must be properly restrained in a federally approved child safety seat appropriate for the child's age, weight and height up through 7 years of age or 65 lbs. Additionally, children 8 to 15 years old are required to be properly secured in a seatbelt. The fine for violating the law is \$25.00. All children under 12 years old or 65 inches in height are still required to sit in the back seat if there are active airbags in the front passenger seating position. OHS requested the upgrade so that the State would comply with new federal guidelines for transporting children in child safety seats. Previously, Delaware's law required children to be in a child safety seat through age 6 or they weighed 60 pounds. Safety officials hope that the new guidelines will encourage parents of older children to keep them in booster seats longer. "We know that children ages 4 to 8 are often too small to be properly protected by seat belts designed to fit an average sized adult," said Tricia Roberts, Director of the Office of Highway Safety.

DDC To Host ANNUAL PICNIC

WHEN: October 5, 10 am to 3 pm
WHERE: Rain or shine
 Delaware State Fair
 Kent Pavilion



Again this year, the Delaware Developmental Disabilities Council will host its annual picnic event to bring awareness to Delawareans with disabilities. With a very large and diverse disabled population throughout the State, this event is a great opportunity to bring the community together for networking and fun. A variety of organizations will be staffing informational exhibits and distributing resource materials for people with disabilities.

DSHS EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

CHOICE AWARD WINNERS

1st Quarter — Eddie Walton and Stefan Smi (DEMA)

Eddie's primary duty is to support the State's Radiological Emergency Planning effort. He is the technician responsible for the State's emergency field monitoring equipment for first responders. He manages an inventory and calibration program for over 3,000 pieces of equipment spread throughout the State. The equipment is constantly in flux, requiring close interaction with varied agencies (federal, state, county, local and private) to coordinate stockpile status. The equipment requires routine scheduled calibration performed by a laboratory in New Jersey. Eddie schedules this cyclic maintenance ensuring all equipment is up to date and ready should it be needed for an emergency.

Stefan's primary duty is to support the State's Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) effort. He is the technician responsible for the State's receipt, inventory and disbursement of emergency response equipment to our first responders. He manages an inventory of millions of dollars of equipment on a daily basis. This position requires Stefan to interact with rep



Pictured: Eddie Walton, Stefan Smi and Sec. Mitchell

representatives from all levels of government. He is a "do it all" type of person who takes a hands on approach to his job and is fully involved from unloading the delivery truck to loading materials to be delivered to the end user as well as handling all the coordination and paperwork.

ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO ENFORCEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

DATE FORMS OVER SERVICE UNIT

On August 1, a new law to address over intoxication began providing funding for the establishment of a Division of Alcohol and Tobacco Enforcement (DATE) Over Service Unit. The DATE Over Service Unit now receives \$200 from each State liquor license renewal. The new Unit, staffed by a full-time agent, will follow up on leads regarding licensed establishments that may be over serving customers. The agent will also conduct undercover stings and work DUI checkpoints as part of the Checkpoint Strikeforce Campaign. At checkpoints, the agent will be able to interview violators to get leads on problem licensees. "Identifying licensed businesses that are over serving patrons is an important public safety matter. Over service can directly lead to roadway fatalities," said DATE Director Dan Kline.

DATE HOSTS TOBACCO TRAINING

In August, DATE joined with several state and federal police agencies to discuss tobacco smuggling. Participating agencies included DSP, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; Immigration and Customs Enforcement and; Delaware River and Bay Authority. The purpose of the meeting was to begin more regional coordination of tobacco smuggling cases. Delaware is a source for illegal tobacco smuggling since its cigarette tax is lower than the surrounding states of New Jersey, New York and Maryland. The meeting opened lines of communication between the agencies and as a result DATE expects a more focused and coordinated approach to addressing the problems related to tobacco smuggling.

STATE TOBACCO COMPLIANCE RATE AMONG HIGHEST IN NATION

Again this year, Delaware's tobacco compliance rate of 95% was one of the highest in the nation. Delaware has ranked in the top for more than four years. DATE has received national attention for this outstanding accomplishment and agents are often asked to share information about Delaware's program at national conferences.

"We use a combination of zero tolerance and proactive education of merchants and retailers," said DATE Supervisor Mike Downs. "We are tough on all violators including owners. But, we also make sure retailers know the law and what is expected."

DATE's distributes merchant education packets to all licensed establishments. The packets, which have been translated into five languages, fully explain State laws. DATE's compliance program is also supported by cigarette companies like Philip Morris and RJ Reynolds.

Other states are also envious of DATE's real-time online reporting system for tobacco compliance. DATE agents file compliance data via mobile data computers in their vehicles. This method is more efficient for agents and enables other DATE staff to have immediate access to the data.