



# Traffic Safety Dispatch

February 2014

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## Speeding and Impaired Driving *A Deadly Combination*

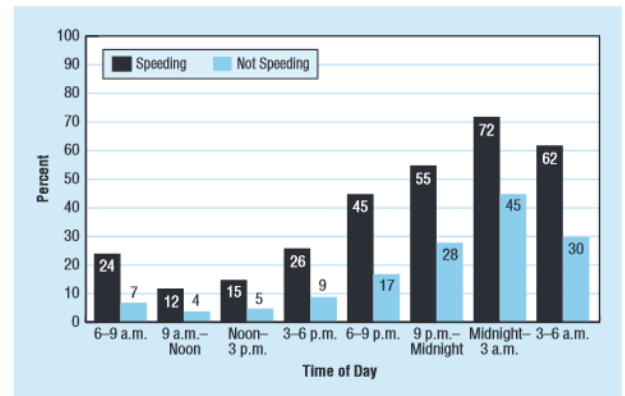
Individuals driving over the speed limit or while impaired pose a very serious threat to their safety and to the safety of others on the roadways. Such danger is further amplified when speeding and driver impairment are combined.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) considers a crash to be speeding-related if the driver is charged with a speeding-related offense, or if the responding officer demonstrates that the driver was going too fast for the road conditions at the time or was exceeding the posted speed limit. This can have dangerous consequences including:

- Reducing a driver's ability to negotiate curves or maneuver around obstacles in the roadway;
- Extending the distance traveled before a vehicle can stop;
- Increasing the distance a vehicle travels while the driver reacts to a hazard;
- Increasing the risk of crashes and injuries because other vehicles and pedestrians may not be able to judge distance correctly.

When a driver couples dangerous speeds with impairment due to drugs and/or alcohol, they further diminish their ability to safely navigate the roadways. According to the NHTSA, in 2011, 42 percent of speeding drivers had a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .08 or higher in fatal crashes, compared to only 16 percent of non-speeding drivers involved in fatal crashes. Furthermore, the 2011 statistics showed that this percentage is elevated during nighttime hours. Between midnight and 3 a.m., 72 percent of speeding drivers involved in fatal crashes were alcohol impaired (BAC = .08+) as compared to 45 percent of non-speeding drivers.

Percentage of Alcohol-Impaired Drivers (BAC=.08+) in Fatal Crashes, by Time of Day and Speeding Involvement, 2011



Due to high rates of fatal co-occurrence, it is important that law enforcement agencies address these traffic safety issues both separately and together. More information on these issues can be found on the NHTSA [website](#), which includes the [2011 survey](#).

## **Drug Recognition Experts (DREs)**

### *Making an Impact During the 2013 Labor Day National Impaired Driving Crackdown Period*

**By: Chuck Hayes, IACP, DEC Program Regional Operations Coordinator**

Each year the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) designates national impaired driving enforcement "crackdown" periods to help address the impaired driving problem on our nation's roadways. Each of the designated periods focuses on combining high-visibility enforcement with heightened public awareness through advertising and publicity.

An important component of each enforcement crackdown effort is the use of drug recognition experts (DREs). DREs are officers trained to detect, apprehend and identify drivers suspected of being under the influence of drugs. In addition, DREs are highly skilled in recognizing alcohol-impaired drivers or drivers impaired by a combination of alcohol and other drugs. Their impaired driving detection skills provide an important role in addressing impaired driving on our nation's roadways especially during the busy and dangerous holiday periods.

The International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) and NHTSA continue to promote and encourage the use of DREs during each holiday crackdown period. During the recent Labor Day national crackdown period (August 16 – September 2nd) the majority of Drug Evaluation and Classification (DEC) Program states had many of their DREs assigned to impaired driving enforcement activities using their impairment detection skills. DRE enforcement data was reported by 31 states indicating that DREs accounted for 7,542 impaired driving arrests plus an additional 758 drugged driving arrests during the crackdown period. In the 31 reporting states DREs also conducted 920 drug influence evaluations, participated in over 300 sobriety checkpoints and over 1,000 impaired driving emphasis patrols. In addition to their enforcement activities, many of the DREs assisted in public awareness events and assisted in educating the public of the hazards of drug-impaired driving.

## Speed Awareness

### *Insights from National Law Enforcement Challenge Winners*



The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) is making great efforts to reduce speed-related crashes in its community by conducting aggressive education and enforcement campaigns. Working with the Ontario Ministry of Transportation, the Ontario Ministry of Environment, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and the media, the OPP has had an impact in Ontario and is this year's National Law Enforcement Challenge, Speed Awareness special category

winner. The OPP is the second largest deployed police force in Canada, with a total of 9,056 sworn personnel. Ontario is a large and geographically diverse area that spans more than 424,000 square miles. Speed enforcement takes place in both densely populated urban areas with busy freeways, and in rural areas where hundreds of miles of road separates communities. IACP contacted the OPP to get some insights into the activities they are utilizing in their speed awareness efforts.

#### EDUCATION

**Aggressive Driving Kills Campaign.** This intensive, three-week education and enforcement campaign runs in the spring and fall, and is designed to encourage people to take a serious look at their driving behavior. Leveraging its strong relationship with media and various community partners, the OPP provides drivers with tips on how to drive safely, while making it clear that police will take a zero tolerance approach to aggressive driving.

#### Extensive Media Coverage and Public Service

**Announcements.** Reaching out to parent media companies, which can feed news stories to their affiliates, has helped the OPP get its message to a larger audience. In addition to press releases, the OPP invites media to roadside events and partners on public service announcements that draw attention to traffic safety campaigns and educate motorists on the risks of speeding.

**Excessive speed is a top contributor in fatal vehicle crashes. By targeting both education and enforcement efforts on the “big four” high-risk driving behaviors, including speed, the OPP has reduced the number of fatal crashes on its highways.**

**Officer Training.** Speed training covers provincial legislation, radar/laser use, case law, and court testimony is provided to all OPP recruits. OPP officers also have access to continuous learning opportunities including the Canadian Police Knowledge Network, Centre for Leadership and Learning, OntarioLearn.com, Canadian Virtual University, and the Ontario Police Video Training Alliance.

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## **ENFORCEMENT/PROTECTION**

**Provincial Traffic Safety Program (PTSP).** As part of the PTSP, the OPP focuses on the "big four" high-risk driving behaviors, which include aggressive driving (of which excessive speed is a factor), drinking and driving, lack of occupant restraints, and distracted driving. In 2012, the OPP engaged in 10 enforcement initiatives to address aggressive driving and speed. In addition, random unannounced enforcement days were conducted on a regular basis throughout the year.

**Aircraft Enforcement Program.** The OPP's airplane surveillance program uses a trained pilot and observer to stop traffic violators throughout hundreds of miles of highways and roads. Aerial views have been especially effective in safely catching motorists who are racing or driving at excessive speeds.

**Roadside Seizure.** The Ontario Highway Traffic Act allows for immediate roadside seizure of vehicles as well as license suspension for seven days for drivers involved in racing, excessive speed, and stunt driving. When this street racing legislation was implemented in 2007, nearly 4,000 OPP front-line members received training through mandatory Operational Field Briefings.

## **INSIGHTS FOR OTHER AGENCIES**

- Zero in on where speed is contributing to fatal accidents; then target your education and enforcement efforts there.
- Strengthen your efforts through partnerships with other agencies and community organizations.
- Work with the media to share your efforts with the public. The more times a message is repeated, the more likely driving behaviors will change.

## **RESULTS**

The OPP experienced exceptional levels of enforcement across the Province in 2012, which included 27,370 more speeding charges than the previous year. In addition, the number of fatal collisions involving aggressive driving and/or speed on Ontario's highways was approximately 30 percent lower than the average number of deaths per year over the last decade.

*The National Law Enforcement Challenge is a national traffic safety awards program that focuses on occupant protection, impaired driving, and speed. Visit [www.iacp.org/NLEC](http://www.iacp.org/NLEC) to learn more about the program or download a copy of the Traffic Safety Innovations booklet.*

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## Impaired Driving Updates: The ARIDE Program

The NHTSA, with input from the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) Technical Advisory Panel (TAP) and the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police, has developed a program that encompasses both Standardized Field Sobriety Testing (SFST) and Drug Evaluation and Classification (DEC) in an effort to provide law enforcement with a dual-education on drugs and alcohol, the impairment that they cause, and how to evaluate and identify these substances.

The Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE) program works to bridge the gap between SFST and DEC by equipping officers with knowledge related to drug impairment and by promoting the use of DREs in states that have the DEC program. The program is a 16-hour training course taught by DREs, DRE instructors, or SFST instructors who are also DREs.

The ARIDE course is now available to law enforcement personnel and prosecutors who meet SFST proficiency requirements. To access this training, visit: <https://tsilearn.dot.gov/>. For further information about the program, please contact Bill O'Leary at NHTSA at (202) 366-0543.

## Resources

### **Resources from NHTSA:**

[Motivations for Speeding, Volume I: Summary Report](#)

[Aggressive Driving Enforcement Best Practices](#)

[Stop Aggressive Driving Toolkit](#)

[Definitions Related to Speed](#)

[State Speed Laws](#)

[The International Drug Evaluation & Classification Program - Training and Certification](#)

The Traffic Safety! Dispatch is funded by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and published by the Division of State and Provincial Police of the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Sharing of material in this newsletter is encouraged. Submissions and comments may be directed to Mandy Giordano, IACP, 44 Canal Center Plaza, Alexandria, VA 22314 or by email at [giordano@theiacp.org](mailto:giordano@theiacp.org).

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