This Cinco de Mayo, Don’t Let Fiestas Lead to Fatalities
Buzzed Driving Is Drunk Driving

It is really fun to visit restaurants that celebrate Cinco de Mayo. It is also another reason to get together with friends and loved ones to party and have a good time. But did you know that every year on May 5th, when people nationwide get together to celebrate Cinco de Mayo, with parties, festive foods, and lots of alcohol there can be problems.

This holiday all-too-often leads to tragedy when people choose to drive impaired. From 2008-2012, there were 233 people killed in drunk driving crashes around Cinco de Mayo (6 p.m. May 4th to 5:59 a.m. May 6th) – 89 people in 2012 alone. Those deaths were preventable.

This year on Cinco de Mayo, if you plan to drink, plan NOT to drive. Also watch out for your friends and loved ones and designate a driver.

http://www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov/CincoDeMayo

A Note from our Region 4 Administrator

This is my final column as your Region 4 Administrator and I wanted to let you know how proud I am of the outstanding accomplishments you have attained in the past 10 years that I have had the privilege of serving as your Regional Administrator.

Seat Belt use is at an all-time high 91 percent, speeding fatalities at an all-time low and in the past 10 years fatalities involving a driver with a .08 BAC level have been reduced 40 percent. The most important statistic of all is - in 2012 there were 2,000 less people dying on the roadways of our five states than in 2004. Over the 10 year span tens of thousands of people are alive because of your efforts.

I have always been a believer that it takes everyone working together to have success in anything we do. The success you have achieved in Region 4 reinforces that belief even more. So for everyone reading this column congratulations and thank you for all that you have done and will do in the future to save lives and reduce injuries caused by traffic crashes in this Region and across the Country.

Thank you also for the support you have shown me over the years. You have made it easy to do a job I so truly loved doing. I will miss you all.

With Warm Regards,
2012 “Pedestrians” Traffic Safety Fact Sheet (DOT HS 811 888): In 2012, 4,743 pedestrians were killed and an estimated 76,000 were injured in traffic crashes in the United States. On average, a pedestrian was killed every 2 hours and injured every 7 minutes in traffic crashes.


2012 “State Alcohol-Impaired Driving Estimates” Traffic Safety Fact Sheet (DOT HS 812 017): This fact sheet contains estimates of driver alcohol involvement in fatal crashes for the United States and individually for the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico in 2012. For comparison, data from 10 years ago (2003) is also presented. These estimates are based on data from NHTSA’s Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS). Unfortunately, blood alcohol concentration (BAC) test results are not known for all drivers involved in fatal crashes. Missing data can result for a number of reasons, the most frequent of which is that people are not always tested for alcohol.


2012 “Overview” Traffic Safety Fact Sheet (DOT HS 812 016): In 2012, 33,561 people were killed in the estimated 5,615,000 police-reported motor vehicle traffic crashes; 2,362,000 people were injured; and 3,950,000 crashes resulted in property damage only. Compared to 2011, this is a 3.3 percent increase in the number of fatalities, and a 5.2 percent increase in the number of police-reported motor vehicle traffic crashes, a 6.5 percent increase in the number of people injured, and a 4.6 percent increase in crashes resulting in property damage. An average of 92 people died each day in motor vehicle crashes in 2012—one every 16 minutes.


Teens and Distracted Driving 2012 Data Sheet (DOT HS 812 015): The Teens and Distracted Driving 2012 data sheet contains information on 15-19 year olds killed and involved in distracted affected driving. In 2012, there were a total of 2,607 15-19 year olds killed in all crashes. A total of 273 15-19 year olds were killed in distraction-affected crashes in 2012.


May is Motorcycle Awareness Month!
Look Left, Right, Behind and Ahead...
Watch for Motorcycles and Share the Road
[http://www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov/ShareTheRoad](http://www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov/ShareTheRoad)
It is that time of year again…

Click It or Ticket
National Seat Belt Enforcement Mobilization
May 19 through June 1, 2014

http://www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov/CIOT2014

Please visit the NHTSA website at http://www.nhtsa.gov/ and Traffic Safety Marketing website as they provide much needed information at http://www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov/

Everyone has different preferences when it comes to transportation, but there’s one that all road users share—everyone is a pedestrian. Unfortunately, pedestrians were one of the few groups of road users to experience an increase in fatalities in the United States in 2012, totaling 4,743 deaths.

“On average, a pedestrian was killed every two hours and injured every seven minutes in traffic crashes. Fourteen percent of all traffic fatalities and an estimated 3 percent of those injured in traffic crashes were pedestrians.” (Traffic Safety Facts: Pedestrians, April 2014) – (PDF 1.20 MB). Please read more at: http://www.nhtsa.gov/nhtsa/everyoneisapedestrian/index.html
The Annual Region 4 Southeastern Colonel’s Conference

The Annual Region 4 Southeastern Colonel’s Conference was held in conjunction with the IACP State and Provincial meeting in Atlanta, Georgia on April 13 -16. Fifty participants representing each of the five Region 4 state patrol agencies command staff were in attendance. In addition executive law enforcement representatives from Texas, Louisiana, Connecticut, North Carolina and Kentucky attended.

The law enforcement executives from the Southeast were each joined by officials from each highway safety office in the Region. Georgia State Patrol Colonel, Mark McDonough and the Governor’s Office of Highway Safety Director Harris Blackwood led this two and a half day meeting.

NHTSA Region 4 welcomed Dr. Maggi Gunnels, Associate Administrator, Regional Operations & Program Delivery, Mike Brown, Director, Office of Impaired Driving and Occupant Protection and Brian Chodrow, Program Analyst, Safety Countermeasures Division. Each provided an insightful presentation and discussion relative to important issues and advanced approaches important to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

This year’s agenda embraced proactive measures in imminent issues important to highway safety and methods to improve the deliverables for partners, law enforcement and the driving community overall. Participants discussed leadership, officer wellness and vehicle operation safety, mentoring and staffing challenges. Several key forthcoming topics were presented that are applicable to all law enforcement agencies nationwide. These included the older driver, distracted driving, legalization of marijuana, increasing the Drug Recognition Expert program and advanced vehicle technology.

The conference concluded mid-week with a gathering of these professionals who had an opportunity to provide the Regional Administrator, Terrance Schiavone, with parting awards and proclamations reflecting both his leadership and stewardship throughout the previous ten years. Terry was made an Honorary Georgia State Trooper by the Colonel of the Georgia State Patrol, and the Florida Highway Patrol Colonel presented him with a Certificate of Appreciation. He was the recipient of the second Target Zero Highway Safety Champion Award from the South Carolina Colonel and the Highway Safety Office Director. In addition, Georgia Governor Nathan Deal presented him with a plaque recognizing his many accomplishments during his career during a dinner at the Georgia Governor’s mansion.

Terry welcomed each kind word, but spoke words of gratefulness to the collection of professional and highway safety peers who he has worked with during his time with NHTSA. He reminded them of the accomplishments the Region and their agencies have achieved and challenged them to work even harder as new technologies take place and the driving community transforms with our travelling society.
Terry Schiavone is the Regional Administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) for the Southeast Region, headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia.

Prior to becoming Regional Administrator in Atlanta, Mr. Schiavone served in a number of Traffic Safety Management positions. In his most recent position he was Division Director for Transportation Programs in the State of New Mexico. The two Bureaus under his supervision were Traffic Safety and Public Transportation.

In 1990 he was appointed President and Board Member for the National Commission Against Drunk Driving and served 9 years in this position. He was also the Governor’s Highway Safety Representative for the State of Massachusetts from 1983 to 1990.

In 1976 Terry was elected Alderman, Director of Public Safety for the City of Lawrence, Massachusetts and served four two year terms.

Mr. Schiavone began his public service career in 1967 as a police officer in Lawrence, Massachusetts.

Connie Beasley is the Regional Program Manager with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) in Region 4 Atlanta, Georgia. She began her career with NHTSA in 1991 and currently serves as the Regional Program Manager (RPM) for the State of Georgia. She also serves as the Region 4 contact for Child Passenger Safety, Pedestrians and Older Driver issues. She was previously the RPM for South Carolina.

Prior to working with NHTSA, Connie taught regular and special education classes for thirteen years and served as the Coordinator of Special Olympics. She also served as the Student Council Advisor where students were actively involved in a highway safety program.

In 1989 Connie accepted a position as the Coordinator for the Techniques for Effective Alcohol Management (TEAM) program through a grant with the NHTSA. In this position she worked with professional sports teams in Atlanta to assist them in educating the public in responsible drinking.