

Our mission is to work together as One DPS in providing a safe and secure environment for all people in Utah.

Keith D. Squires
Commissioner



Utah

Department of Public Safety

DPS in the News



To address what is known as the 100 Deadliest Days of Summer, the UHP and Highway Safety Office held a press event at Scheels, featuring a display of Utah's deadliest predators and highlighting overtime shifts for troopers to address unsafe drivers. Watch a Fox 13 News story about the event [here](#).



Students from Polk Elementary were featured in a new video series from the UHP. Watch a KSL story and the videos [here](#).

Governor's Public Safety Summit

The Eighth Annual Governor's Public Safety Summit was held May 5-6, 2015, at the Davis County Conference Center in Layton, Utah. Approximately 400 people attended and the conference's theme this year was "Elevating Public Safety Through Collaboration."

Governor Gary R. Herbert, Lt. Governor Spencer Cox, and Commissioner Keith Squires welcomed the public safety professionals and encouraged inter-agency collaboration to address public safety throughout Utah.

Governor Herbert expressed his sincere appreciation for the work that public safety professionals do each day to make this state a safer place to live and raise our families.

The conference speakers were great and shared their experiences with public safety issues as well as methods for working together for better outcomes. The first plenary speaker was Asst. Chief Michael Anzallo, from the Washington D.C. Police Department, who spoke about the Navy Yard shooting. He emphasized the importance of information sharing and how effective sharing could have prevented this situation from occurring and prevented the loss of twelve lives.



The second plenary speaker was Officer Jermaine Galloway, from the Boise Police Department, who spoke about new trends in drug use and alcohol use among teens. He provided an enlightening presentation that gave everyone in the room a better understanding of prevalent drug paraphernalia and how to be better informed.

The last plenary speakers were LAPD Captain Andy Neiman and Steve Gregory, a national correspondent with KFI Radio. Andy and Steve presented on the importance of crisis communication skills and critical thinking during incidents. They also discussed how to improve information distribution by working with the media to get your message out effectively.

Breakout sessions provided a wide variety of interesting topics to improve our skills as public servants and learn new ideas from experts in our field.

The conference was successful and productive and we all learned from our local and national experts. The next Public Safety Summit will be May 17-18, 2016, in St. George, Utah. See you then!

-- Judy Watanabe



A Focus on Seat Belts

While some of DPS' agencies work behind the scenes gathering intelligence and solving crimes, there are also agency programs that are highly publicized and work to provide information and education. In May, several of these campaigns and efforts focused on the use of seat belts. In 2014, 72 people who lost their lives on Utah's roadways were unrestrained. Seat belts could have prevented many of these tragic deaths.

In an effort to help address this issue, the Utah Legislature passed a primary seat belt law, which went into effect on May 12th. At a press event at the Utah State Capitol, Commissioner Squires, UDOT Executive Director Carlos Braceras, legislators and a family who survived a crash spoke about the importance of buckling up (*photo at right*).

Later in the month, the HSO coordinated the 16th annual Click It or Ticket enforcement

mobilization, providing overtime shifts to law enforcement agencies throughout the State and featuring advertising campaigns on Facebook, Pandora, YouTube and terrestrial radio.

As of June 1st, more than 7,000 warnings have been issued to motorists for not buckling up, and more than 2,000 of those were issued by the Utah Highway Patrol. Encouraging the public to buckle up will continue to be a focus as DPS works to save lives and establish the effectiveness of the primary seat belt law.



Evidence Testing Update

The Department of Public Safety's Bureau of Forensic Sciences continues to lead the effort to develop comprehensive strategies for the analysis of sexual assault evidence and coordinate the analysis of all sexual assault kits not yet submitted. As of May 8, 2015, the lab has received results from a total of 188 kits sent to the outsourcing laboratory. The testing reports are now being reviewed and will be uploaded to the secured website for access by the applicable police agency.

To help supplement state funding for the testing, the laboratory has applied for two national grants to address issues pertaining to sexual assault investigations and untested sexual assault kits.

Table Top Prep

With the support of FEMA Region 8, the Utah Division of Emergency Management conducted a Continuity of Operations Tabletop Exercise (TTX) on May 20. Ninety-five personnel from all State of Utah departments participated in the TTX.

The first grant is the SAKI initiative by the Bureau of Justice Assistance. It will provide funds to develop a "model" of best practices for Salt Lake County which can then be distributed across Utah. The second grant involves the District Attorney of New York County and will provide funding for the analysis of untested sexual assault kits.

At an event coordinated by the West Valley City Police Department, Dr. Campbell presented information regarding the trauma experienced by sexual assault victims and how they should be interviewed and notified about cold case rape kit hits with the CODIS database.

Road Respect Tour

The southern Utah cities of Washington, Santa Clara and Hurricane were recognized for their efforts to promote bicycle awareness and safety as the Road Respect bicycle safety program toured the area and hosted community events and rides.