

Our mission is working together as ONE DPS to provide a safe and secure Utah.

Keith D. Squires
Commissioner



Utah

Department of Public Safety

DPS in the News



Law enforcement officers from numerous police departments attended the first train-the-trainer session of the State Bureau of Investigation's Community Awareness Program (CAP). The CAP is designed to teach law enforcement and community members about the basic behavioral indicators which are associated with pre-operational terrorist planning. You can read more detailed information about the CAP in the [November edition of the DPS Highlights](#). Major Brian Redd highlighted the importance of the training noting that "the threat of terrorism is evolving, it's high right now with all that is going on in the Middle East."

[Click here to watch a KUTV story about the CAP.](#)
[Click here to watch a Fox 13 story about the training.](#)

BCI: Exceptionally Busy in 2015

When the Bureau of Criminal Identification completed its annual review, the numbers revealed 2015 was a very busy year. Both the Brady firearm background check section and the concealed firearm permits (CFP) section saw record or near record numbers of checks performed throughout the year.

Brady staff processed 18,976 background checks for firearm purchases in December alone, making the month 2nd only to 2012 when 23,227 background checks were processed. In an average December, the Brady section usually processes 13,000-14,000 background checks.

In addition to the background checks, 15,392 verifications of valid CFPs were processed. This was the highest total in a single month for permit verifications, surpassing December 2012 when 15,134 verifications of valid CFPs were processed. 2015 emerged as the 3rd largest year in the history of the program with 102,641 background checks. The two highest years were 2013 with 110,623 and 2012 with 106,978. However, those years were driven

with huge spikes during small portions of the year (November and December in 2012 and January-May in 2013). These are the only three years BCI has ever crossed the 100K threshold, with the next nearest year being 2014 with 91,437 checks. 2015 was consistently the busiest overall year ever with 10 of the 12 months recording the first or second highest totals for the individual months in the history of the program and the other two months were the 3rd highest. There were 87,642 verifications of valid CFPs for the entire year, just behind 2013 with 94,960.

Whether this level of activity continues in 2016 remains to be seen. But as the point of contact (POC) for Brady firearm background checks, BCI is positioned to handle any changes stemming from the executive order signed by the President of the United States. All Brady background checks are handled through the state rather than only through the National Instant Criminal Background Check (NICS) system for non-POC states.



Crime Lab Reports Progress on Sexual Assault Kit Testing

The Utah Bureau of Forensic Services Crime Lab continues to make progress in submitting and analyzing untested sexual assault evidence kits. Beginning in October 2014, law enforcement agencies throughout the State of Utah began submitting untested evidence kits to the crime lab for DNA testing. At that time, the Sexual Assault Kit Working Committee estimated that there were 2,700 untested kits among law enforcement agencies statewide.

Since September 2015, more than 1,400 kits have

been submitted and of those, the testing has been completely finished on 210. Crime Lab Director Jay Henry discussed the length of time involved in processing the kits stating, "Once you get the kit and you get it to the vendor laboratory and back, you're probably talking about two to three months." Thirty one of the completed kits have been entered into the FBI's Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) and 14 were matched in CODIS and referred to law enforcement agencies for further investigation.

Incident at Calvin Rampton Building

On January 20th at approximately 2 p.m., a motor home rammed the front doors of the Calvin Rampton Building. The driver was dissatisfied with the recent suspension of his driver license for a DUI. After the driver rammed the front door and was unable to exit the vehicle, he shot himself. Sergeant Todd Royce responded to the vehicle and secured the weapon and the suspect with the assistance of a Murray Police

Department sergeant who was delivering evidence to the crime lab.

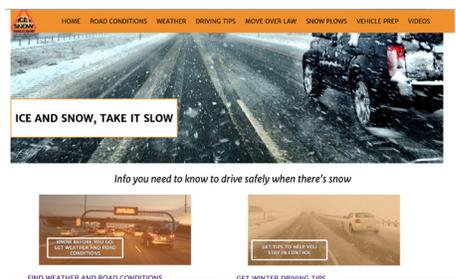
Staff from the crime lab helped secure the scene and the building was evacuated while law enforcement ensured the vehicle did not contain any explosives.

Fortunately, no employees were injured during the incident. The driver later succumbed to his self-inflicted gunshot wound.

New Winter Driving Website

To help address the increased number of crashes that occur on Utah's roads in the winter months, the Highway Safety Office partnered with UHP and UDOT to create a website with information about how to drive safely when the greatest snow on earth

starts falling. The website - utahwinterdriving.org - includes the following: tips on safe driving in winter conditions, how to drive safely around snow plows, how to avoid secondary crashes, and where to find information on weather and road conditions.



Pizza and Politics at UVU

Commissioner Squires was joined by Utah County Sheriff James Tracy for a discussion about public safety and law enforcement at Utah Valley University. Part of the university's Pizza and Politics series, it allowed the Commissioner and Sheriff to engage with

students and answer their questions. "We are responsible for the safety of the public and our officers," said Commissioner Squires when asked about the issue of use of force. [Click here to read a UVU article about the event.](#)





Honoring a Fallen Officer

Tragedy struck the public safety community in Utah when Unified Police Officer Doug Barney was shot and killed in the line of duty on January 17th.

When he learned of Officer Barney's passing, Commissioner Squires wrote the following:

Today our state lost a great man. Salt Lake County Unified Police Officer Doug Barney was murdered while protecting his community and bravely doing the duty that he committed his life of service to. Like every police officer throughout our great state and nation who serve, he knew well the risks that he could face at any moment of any day. He knew that the uniform that he wore with great pride is designed to represent safety and security to us all. We rely on our peace officers for providing the foundation of which our great country, communities and quality of life are built upon. Officer Barney was a vital part of what that foundation is made of. He knew, like all officers do, that his uniform is also a target for those predators in our society who would

be able to do much more harm if not for his visible presence and commitment to helping and protecting the good people of Utah. Those predators will always have an advantage on the uniformed officers, because they know what they are about to do. The officers must wait and react to the threats that are presented against them. They learn that from the first days of their training. It is for this reason that we must all stand steadfast in our support for them, for the good that they stand for and for the peace they provide for all of us.

I am very grateful that brave men and women like Officer Barney and Officer Richey choose to face these dangers in order to protect our safety and serve our communities. My most heartfelt prayers will be with Officer Barney's family and with Officer Richey and his family. I'm very grateful to them and all who courageously serve!



The UHP motor squad led Officer Barney's funeral procession, which was estimated to be 53 miles long. [Click here or on the image to watch a short video.](#)



UHP met the Colorado State Patrol at the Utah-Colorado border to escort the Honor Flag to Salt Lake City for Officer Barney's memorial service.



Trooper Bertram salutes as the procession passes.



The UHP motor squad leading the procession.