

THE ASSOCIATION



The Newsletter of the Indiana Association of Certified Accident Investigators
www.iacai.com

Several New Bills Introduced; Cell Phone Use While Driving Considered

Of the approximately 1,327 bills introduced before the houses of the Indiana Senate and House of Representatives, several bills have taken aim at curbing the use of cell phone technology by folks while driving. Of these, some of the bills attempt to address the use of all electronic devices, while other bills attempt to address the cell phone use by the younger group. Having recently witnessed first hand a young lady texting and driving, I've become quite the advocate for such a law. I really think that I could have done a number of different things and still not have gotten her attention as she drove, tailgating me down the interstate!

I've looked through much of the new bills before our legislators and have attempted to identify those that might be of interest to the Crash Investigation community. As they stand right now, all of the bills are currently in various stages of legal wrangling. I have tried to indicate which bills are moving forward and which bills are still in committee. Nearly all of these bills, if approved, are set to go into effect July 01, 2009:

SB 0007 Resisting Law Enforcement & License Suspension. This bill, currently in committee, provides that the driver's license of a person convicted of resisting law enforcement while using a motor vehicle shall be suspended for 1 year *after* the date of conviction or release from incarceration.

SB 0016 Learner's Permits & Graduated Licenses. This bill seeks to raise the minimum age requirement for the issuance of a learner's permit from the current age of 15½ years old to 16½ years old, and raises the minimum age requirement for the issuance of a Probationary Operator's license from 16 years old to 17 years old. The bill also requires practice for a set period of time before a Probationary Operator's license is issued. A provision making the use of a telecommunications device prohibited has been added, as well as a provision requiring that the holder of a new PO cannot have anyone in the vehicle unless it is another driver, age 25 or older, who holds a valid driver's license. This bill has passed the first house reading.

SB 0080/HB 1699 Cell Phone Use While Driving. These bills are pretty similarly worded; each bill makes it a class 'D' infraction for a person less than 18 years old to operate a motor vehicle while using a cell phone. The bills also provide for specific certain exemptions, including using the phone in cases of emergency. Each of these bills are currently in committee.

SB 0102 Extra Heavy Duty Highways. This bill, currently in committee, provides for certain highways to be established as extra heavy duty highways, permitting gross vehicle weights limits of 100,000 lbs, unless specified. Interestingly enough, some of the highways identified in the bill are two lane highways! This may be one bill that needs to be scrutinized carefully.

SB 0196 Electronic Devices While Operating A Motor Vehicle. This bill provides a person who uses a handheld device while operating a motor vehicle as a public passenger chauffer, commits a class 'C' infraction. This bill passed the first house reading.

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New Data Showing Record Low Fatalities; Americans Safer Than Ever - DOT/NHTSA Report

The US Department of Transportation recently released a press statement regarding the record low number of fatalities reported in the US for 2008.

US Department of Transportation Secretary Mary E. Peters recently said that the number of people killed in traffic crashes is expected to reach a new record low in 2008, with early projections showing an almost 10 percent drop in highway traffic deaths in the first 10 months of this year. The Secretary made the announcement recently in Kansas City where she also outlined key safety benchmarks that have been achieved across all areas of transportation.

"Our focus on safety- from our highways, railways, sea-

ways, and airways - has led to one of the safest periods in our nation's history," Secretary Peters said. "Every american can be more confident than ever they will arrive at their destination safe and sound."

The Secretary said the new fatality data marks the first time the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration is able to project fatality figures prior to the end of the calendar year. Using new electronic data gathering techniques, the Department is working to make projections in near real time to "give safety professionals the data they need to keep motorists safe," she said.

Early estimates show that 31,110 people died on the nation's roads from January through October, compared

to 34,502 in 2007 during the same 10-month time period. In addition, the fatality rate per 100 million vehicle miles traveled for the first nine months of 2008 is 1.28, compared to 1.37 for 2007.

"For the second year in a row we are seeing historic lows deaths on our nation's roads," Secretary Peter said. "While we are encouraged by these declines, our work is not nearly complete in making our safe transportation network even safer."

To view the preliminary fatality statistics visit:
<http://nhtsa.gov/staticfiles/DOT/NHTSA/NCSA/Content/RNotes/2008/811054.pdf>

To see the entire press release, please visit:
<http://dot.gov/affairs/dot17508.html>



Members, as well as the plain curious, visit www.iacai.com for the latest news and information

Crash Investigation Training Opportunities

Northwestern University's Center for Public Safety (800) 323-4011

Mar 2-12, 2009	Accident Investigation I
Evanston, IL	\$1200
Mar 16-27, 2009	Accident Investigation II
Evanston, IL	\$1200
Mar 30-Apr 1, 2009	Basic Physics & Math Refresher Course
Evanston, IL	\$900
Apr 6-10, 2009	Vehicle Dynamics
Evanston, IL	\$900
Apr 13-24, 2009	Traffic Accident Recon. I
Evanston, IL	\$1300
Apr 27-May 1, 2009	Traffic Accident Recon II
Evanston, IL	\$1050
May 4-8, 2009	Heavy Vehicle Crash Reconstruction
Evanston, IL	\$1250
(Requires TAR I, TAR II & 6 mo. experience)	

Institute Of Police Technology & Management (IPTM) (904) 620-4786

Apr 13-24, 2009	At-Scene Traffic Crash Investigation
Jacksonville, FL	\$825
Apr 27-May 8, 2009	Advanced Traffic Crash Investigation
Jacksonville, FL	\$825
June 15-29, 2009	Human Factors In Crash Reconstruction
Jacksonville, FL	\$695
Aug 10-14, 2009	Commercial Vehicle Crash Investigation
Jacksonville, FL	\$625
Aug 17-21, 2009	Motorcycle Crash Investigation
Jacksonville, FL	\$625
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2009	CDR Techniques
Jacksonville, FL	\$625



More about: Several New Bills Introduced

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SB 0199/SB 0291 & HB1177

Golf Carts In State Parks & On Local Roads.

Each of these bills are currently in committee and resemble each other as introduced. The jest of each bill is as follows: The bill(s) prohibit an individual from operating a golf cart on a public or private highway, except when a city or town ordinance has been adopted. The operator must have a valid driver's license and passengers must be 18 or older.

SB 0252 Operating While Intoxicated.

This bill, which passed the first house reading, specifies alcohol concentration equivalents for blood tests on blood serum, instead of whole blood for use in laws concerning the operation of motor vehicles and motor boats while intoxicated.

HB 1030 Motorized Bicycles.

This is another bill that I think should be well thought out

before passing. This bill, currently in committee, permits the operation of a motorized bicycle at speeds greater than **25 mph**. It also prohibits operation of the motorized bicycle by persons under the age of 15 and by those without a valid ID card.

HB 1020 & HB 1065

Ignition Interlock Device.

Each of these bills address a mandatory requirement which requires a court to prohibit a person convicted of a driving while intoxicated charge from operating a motor vehicle that is not equipped with an ignition interlock device for 6 months if no prior conviction, and 1 year if the offender has a prior conviction. Both bills are currently in committee.

HB 1228

Proof of Financial Responsibility In An Accident.

Requires a law enforcement officer to perform certain duties with respect to a motor vehicle accident investigation, including impounding a motor vehicle for failure to provide proof of financial re-

sponsibility. The bill is currently in committee.

HB 1242 Mobile Telephone Use

This bill is similar to SB 0016, SB 0080, and HB1699, in so much as it addresses the younger crowd. This bill, currently out of committee, prohibits the use of a mobile telephone device by an operator who possesses a probationary operator's license. The second paragraph then prohibits use by a motor vehicle operator as well. It will be interesting to see how far this bill goes.

HB 1021

Disregarding A School Bus Arm.

This bill increases the penalty for recklessly passing a school bus with the arm extended - from a class 'B' to a class 'A' misdemeanor - if the act causes bodily injury to a person. Status: Passed first house reading.

- Dave McElhaney, IACAI Secretary

FYI: Senate bills 0016, 0080, HB 1242 and HB 1699, all address the issue of using a cell phone or telecommunications device for persons under the age of 18.

Kosciusko FACT Offers Vericom Training

Kosciusko FACT will be hosting a Vericom class on March 24th and March 25th (8:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.) at the training room of the Kosciusko County Sheriff's Department located at 221 W. Main Street, Warsaw, IN 46580.

The class is a two day training class on Acceleration and Vericom Computer Familiarization for traffic accident investigation. This class includes instruction for the VC2000, VC3000 and VC4000 units. A certificate

will be issued to everyone who attends and participates. This class is ACTAR approved for 12 CEUs. For more info, contact Lt. Chris KcKeand, Kosciusko County FACT Coordinator at 574-265-2218.

3 Large Pickups Test Marginal For Occupant Protection

- Insurance Institute For Highway Safety Report



The Chevrolet Silverado 1500, Dodge Ram 1500, and Nissan Titan are billed as workhorses, but the side crash protection these 2009 model large pickups provide is wimpy, at best. The trio earns either poor or marginal ratings in side tests by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety. Even with side airbags, occupant protection in these crew-cab pickups is no better than marginal.

"The size, weight, and height of these large pickups should help them ace the side tests just like the other large pickups we've tested. Not these three," says Institute senior vice president David Zuby. "They perform worse than many cars we've evaluated."

The Dodge Ram with standard side airbags earns a marginal rating. The Nissan Titan and Chevrolet Silverado earn poor ratings when tested without their optional side airbags. The Titan's side rating improves to marginal in models tested with side airbags, while the Silverado's optional side airbags don't improve the rating over models without them. The Silverado's ratings also apply to its twin, the GMC Sierra 1500, both of which were redesigned in 2007, so the rating apply to 2007-09 models. The Ram is a new design for the 2009 model year. The Titan was introduced in the 2004 model year, so results apply to 2004-09 models.

The Institute's side tests assess occupants protection in vehicles stuck in the side by SUVs or pickups. Results can be compared across vehicle type and weight categories,

while frontal crash test ratings can't. This is because the kinetic energy involved in the side test depends on the weight and speed of the moving barrier, which are the same in every test. In contrast, the kinetic energy involved in the frontal crash test against an immovable barrier depends on the test vehicle's speed and weight. The Ram, Titan, and Silverado should have an advantage in side crash tests over smaller vehicles, not just because of their size and weight but also because the dummies' higher seating positions put their heads and shoulders above the striking barrier. Occupants of cars, for instance, are more vulnerable because their bodies are in line with the fronts of vehicles, especially tall ones, which might hit them in the side. "These large pickups don't have to work as hard as smaller vehicles do to protect their occupants. Even with their characteristic advantages, the Ram, Titan, and Silverado still miss the mark when it comes to occupant protection in side crashes," Zuby says.

Without side torso airbags, occupants are vulnerable:

What's behind the lackluster performance? In the Silverado's case, it's a combination of a poor side structure plus the lack of side torso airbags. The truck's optional side curtain airbags are designed to protect occupant's heads, and these worked well. But occupants' upper bodies remain unprotected even with the optional side curtains. "In the

Silverado tests, there was a lot of intrusion into the occupant compartment. With no torso airbags to protect the driver and rear passenger, measures recorded on the test dummies showed that rib fractures and internal organ injuries would be likely in a real-world crash of similar severity," Zuby explains. "Chevy needs to improve the Silverado's side structure, as well as add padding or torso airbags to better protect its occupants."

In contrast, the Ram and Titan's side structures are designed to better limit intrusion. The Ram's side structure/safety cage earns a good rating, while the Titan's earns acceptable marks. The Ram has standard head-protecting side curtain airbags but not torso airbags. Both curtain and side torso bags are optional in the Titan. Adding torso airbags might improve the Ram's side protection. The Titan could be improved with some combination of structural, airbag, or door trim modifications.

"It's certainly possible to design a large pickup that offers good occupant protection in side crashes," Zuby says. Three previously evaluated 2009 models are Institute TOP SAFETY PICK award winners. The Honda Ridgeline, Ford F150, and Toyota Tundra all have standard side airbags with torso and head protection and good-rated structures.

To see the complete news release, please visit the IIHS website at:

<http://www.iihs.org/news/rss/pr021109.html>

"The size, weight, and height of these large pickups should help them ace the side tests just like the other large pickups we've tested."
- IIHS Vice President David Zuby



IACAI Skill Review

Welcome back to the IACAI Skill Review! In this issue, we will be looking at Vehicle Dynamics and all the fun that it can provide us! The answers to the questions will be posted in the next issue of the Association. Enjoy!!

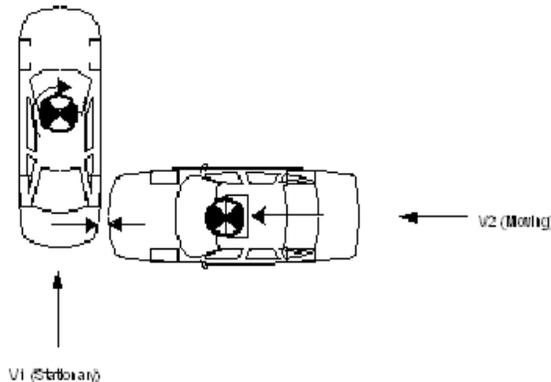
Category: Collision/Impacts

1. An impact collision is a whole series of events in which two objects are in contact with each other. Name the three main events which occur in an impact:
 - a. **First Contact**
 - b. **Maximum Engagement**
 - c. **Separation / Stop**

2. Impacts may be divided into two classes. Name them:
 - a. **Full Impact**
 - b. **Partial Impact**

3. The force which may produce acceleration or deceleration, and results in rotation, is known as:
 - a. Thrust
 - b. Eclectic force
 - c. **Eccentric force**
 - d. Iso-eccentric force

4. In the picture below, two vehicles strike, causing each vehicle to rotate in their own way. Show the principle direction of force and direction of rotation for each vehicle.



5. True **False** A vehicle which is traveling at a faster rate than the vehicle it strikes will present with the most damage.

6. **True** False Damage reflects only the motion of the vehicles with respect to each other, not movement with respect to the roadway.

The IACAI Announces Training Schedule for 2009

On December 11, 2008, the Board of Directors met in Greenwood to set the seminar calendar for 2009. The Board's decision is based on several factors; however, no factor weighs more than that of what our membership would like to see. We appreciate all of the comments we get, whether through the email or through our seminar critiques. All comments and suggestions are seriously considered during the board meeting. At this board meeting, the board se-

lected the following topics for the 2009 Training Calendar listed by the date of training, the location, and by topic:

03/18/09 Indianapolis
Commercial Vehicles

06/17/09 Warsaw Crush
Measurements

09/23/09 Location: TBA
Motorcycles

12/02/09 Indianapolis
Legal Aspects of Crashes

The board also set the board meetings for the following dates:

04/30/09 Greenwood

08/27/09 Greenwood

12/10/09 Greenwood

If you have any ideas or suggestions for topics you'd like to see in the future, please don't hesitate to contact your regional board member. Visit www.iacai.com to locate the email address for the board.



New Board Members Installed

There have been some changes made to the IACAI Board of Directors recently. Brad Seifers from the Bloomington PD, and Jon Kovach, also from the Bloomington PD, both of whom were 'tag-teaming' on one of the south director board member slots, have been separated and are now both full-fledged

board members for the southern district of the Association. Kovach replaces former south director Marc Lahrman of the Jackson Co. Sheriff's Department. In another change, Tim Colip, recently retired from the Hancock Co. Sheriff's Department, and requested to be removed from the Board of Directors position. Filling that

void will be Scott Poston, of the Plainfield Police Department. In the Northern District, Mike Cox of the Warsaw Police Department is replacing Roger Watson, of the Waterloo Police Department. We welcome all of our new (and semi-new) board members and look forward to their service in the IACAI.

Legal Aspects of Crash Cases/ARIES Update held

Recently the IACAI hosted a seminar at the Indiana State Police Museum in Indianapolis on the Legal Aspects of Crash Cases. The instructor for the class was Deb Reasoner, of the Indiana Prosecuting Attorney's Council (IPAC). Ms. Reasoner put on a great presentation on the various statutory changes for 2008 which would affect the crash investigator or FACT team. In addition to the statutory changes, Ms. Reasoner discussed Common Issues in Crash cases. Several issues were discussed, including causation, interview and interroga-

tion techniques, obtaining physical evidence (such as blood samples) and the Indiana Implied Consent Law, a topic at which she spoke at great length about. Another issue which drew many questions was that of the current Indiana code on Blood Draws. Ms. Reasoner presented several case laws in support of the Blood Draw law.

In the afternoon session, Jason LaRue of Holt Sheets, Inc., came to present the latest information on the new ARIES update, set to come out the first quarter of 2009. Several

changes are in order for version 4.0, including moving the driver and vehicle information to the front of the report. The date/time, location and roadway info will still need to be hand-entered, but now the driver's info and registration can be scanned into the program using a handheld scanner. A demonstration using the scanner was given as well. Additional changes include the ability to add supplements by way of clicking on an icon and entering the changes to the report. The VIN number will now be shown on the report.

Seminar Announcement

The Indiana Association of Certified Accident Investigators will be sponsoring a seminar on



Contact us at:

P.O. Box 346
Greenwood, IN 46142
317-882-2901 (FAX)

"Commercial Vehicles"

Presented by: Jim Jackson, ISP CVED

March 18, 2009 0900-1500 hrs

Indiana State Police Museum

8500 East 21st Street

Indianapolis, IN 46219

Cost: \$50 for IACAI members; \$75 for non-members

No advanced registration is required.

Registration begins at 08:30am

Please plan to attend!!

Questions regarding this seminar may be directed to IACAI
President Don Harris

email: donhar232@comcast.net

The Association is published quarterly as a service to members of the Indiana Association of Certified Accident Investigators. Articles submitted are the responsibility of the author; the IACAI assumes no responsibility as to an article's content.