



SAFETY/SENSE

The Monthly Newsletter of Delaware Safety Council

April 2024 Volume 3 No. 5



Distracted Driving Awareness Month



NWZAW
National Work Zone
Awareness Week
April 15-19, 2024

Letter From Executive Director — Stacey Inglis

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Dear Members and Friends,

April is *Distracted Driving Awareness Month*. Just one year ago on March 29, 2023 Governor Carney along with DelDOT, Department of Safety & Homeland Security and members of the General Assembly announced a package of new initiatives and legislation designed to improve safety on Delaware's roadways.

Governor Carney reiterated that safety is a priority for his administration and those pieces became law. The Governor and Lt. Governor signed an official proclamation recognizing April as *Distracted Driving Awareness Month* and urging all Delawareans to do as well. The proclamation was officially presented to me in Dover.

Stacey

Stacey Inglis
Executive Director
Delaware Safety Council





State of Delaware



APRIL is National Distracted Driving Awareness Month

A proclamation recognizing and supporting **National Distracted Driving Awareness Month** was issued by Governor Carney and Lt. Governor Bethany Hall-Long to Delaware Safety Council. *National Distracted Driving Awareness Month* serves as an opportunity to recognize and eliminate preventable deaths from distracted driving.

The Delaware Department of Safety and Homeland Security reported a total of 5,727 crashes in 2023 where distracted driving, fatigue and inattention caused the crash. These circumstances resulted in Distracted Driving becoming the leading cause of crashes on Delaware roadways.

National Work Zone Awareness Week

April 15th—19th

National Work Zone Awareness Week (NWZAW) has been successful in spreading awareness for work zone safety across the country because of participation from organizations and individuals just like you. Hundreds of companies and individuals reach out to ATSSA on social media each year using #NWZAW.

NWZAW 2024 is April 15-19, highlights the deadly dangers of inattention at highway work areas. The 2024 weeklong commemoration included:

- Work Zone Safety Training Day - April 15
- National kickoff event - April 16
- Go Orange Day - April 17
- Social media storm - April 18
- Moment of Silence - April 19. Started in 2022

to remember the men and women whose lives were lost in a work zone incident.



Work Zone Safety Training Day

Monday, April 15, 2024

NWZAW starts on April 15 with Work Zone Safety Training Day, which emphasizes the importance of laying the groundwork for safety through training of personnel. Companies were encouraged to pause during the workday for safety demonstrations, discussions about safety policies and other prevention steps.



Go Orange Day

Wednesday, April 17, 2024

All roadway safety professionals across the country are encouraged to wear orange to proudly show their support of work zone safety. NWZAW and Go Orange Day are especially important to the families of victims who have lost their lives in work zones.

Show your support on social media by posting your orange pics and use the hashtags #NWZAW and #Orange4Safety.



Social Media Storm

Thursday, April 18, 2024

Organizations, companies, institutions and individuals were asked to share messages and use hashtags #NWZAW and #WorkZoneSafety throughout social media between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. ET.

Moment of Silence

Friday, April 19, 2024

The Moment of Silence started in 2022 and encourages companies and families to join together for a moment of silence as a tribute to the people who lost their lives in a work zone incident.



Distracted Driving Awareness Month



THE ISSUE

What Is Distracted Driving?

Distracted driving is any activity that diverts attention from driving, including talking or texting on your phone, eating and drinking, talking to people in your vehicle, fiddling with the stereo, entertainment or navigation system — anything that takes your attention away from the task of safe driving.

Texting is the most alarming distraction. Sending or reading a text takes your eyes off the road for 5 seconds. At 55 mph, that's like driving the length of an entire football field with your eyes closed.

You cannot drive safely unless the task of driving has your full attention. Any non-driving activity you engage in is a potential distraction and increases your risk of crashing.

THE

Consequences

Using a cell phone while driving creates enormous potential for deaths and injuries on U.S. roads. In 2020, 3,142 people were killed in motor vehicle crashes involving distracted drivers.

THE ISSUE

Get Involved

Teens

Teens can be the best messengers with their peers, so we encourage them to speak up when they see a friend driving while distracted, to have their friends sign a pledge to never drive distracted, to become involved in their local Students Against Destructive Decisions chapter, and to share messages on social media that remind their friends, family, and neighbors not to make the deadly choice to drive distracted.

Parents

Parents first have to lead by example — by never driving distracted — as well as have a talk with their young driver about distraction and all of the responsibilities that come with driving. Have everyone in the family sign the pledge to commit to distraction-free driving. Remind your teen driver that in states with graduated driver licensing (GDL), a violation of distracted-driving laws could mean a delayed or suspended license.

1. Visual Distractions

Visual distractions are anything that redirects your focus from the road. Visual distraction can take many forms. Sometimes it could be witnessing a flailing tube dancer at the side of the road, looking at a street sign, seeing a car crash while driving, or perhaps trying to look at someone in the back seat of your car.

As soon as you avert your eyes from the road, you become less aware of the vehicle ahead and traffic signals which increase the likelihood of a severe rear-end collision.

2. Manual Distractions

Anything that prompts you to take your hands off the steering wheel is a manual distraction. Whatever necessitates you to reach for your cell phone, change the radio station, or even take a sip of water is quite frankly a manual distraction. Such distractions tend to slow down your reaction time when you need to take swift action, for instance, an animal crossing the road or an unexpected obstacle.

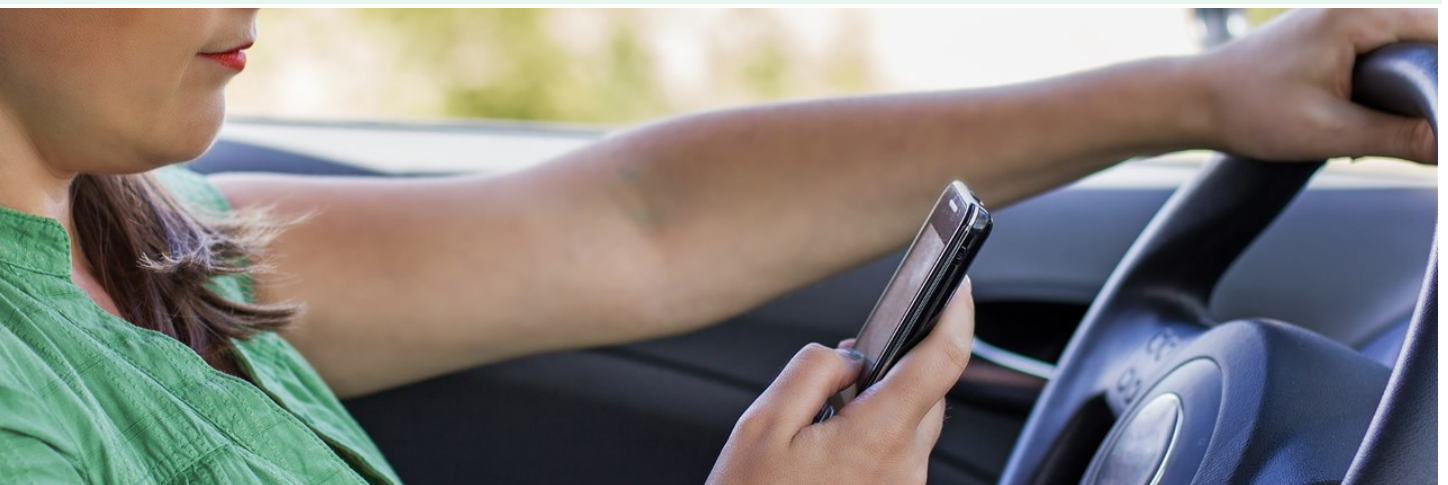
3. Auditory Distractions

Auditory distractions are sound-based, as the name implies. Auditory distractions noises are all sounds that make drivers lose focus on the road. Besides this, anything that interferes with a driver's ability to hear is basically an auditory distraction.

Such distractions include making phone calls, listening to loud music, yelling at the drivers of other motor vehicles, or hearing noisy phone notifications. If you have to listen to music when driving, ensure to keep the volume at a reasonable level to ensure it doesn't distract you from the road.

4. Cognitive Distractions

Cognitive distractions on the road are both difficult to define and exceptionally dangerous. Such distractions arise from the mind being flooded with all kinds of information, which inadvertently steers the driver's attention from the road.





We participated in the Delaware State Chamber of Commerce Delaware Manufacturing Extension Partnership's Manufacturing and Policy Conference in Dover on Thursday, March 28th. The keynote speaker was Ryotaro Tashiro, an economist with the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia. He discussed short and long term economic forecasts for both the U.S. and Delaware economy, with special focus on the manufacturing sector. Later in the day, Governor John Carney spoke and took questions. We were excited to see our founding Company Member DUPONT with a full table at the event! We spoke to several Safety Manager from various companies in our state and look forward to expanding our partnerships.





Addressing Budgets

New Castle County Executive, Matt Meyer presented his eighth budget address in the Louis Redding City/County Building in downtown Wilmington on Tuesday evening March 26th in Council Chamber. Delaware Safety Council was honored to be invited and attend.

Late last year, Delaware Safety Council was one of the recipients of allocated funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). They were Federal funding dollars available to each state for businesses and non-profits who were impacted by COVID. These funds were applied for and provided through a special team in the New Castle County government.

As a registered 501(c)3 non-profit organization, Delaware Safety Council was eligible for funding to recover some of its losses that occurred during COVID lock down. Delaware Safety Council was unable to hold Defensive Driving Classes nor offer other safety services that serve as a main revenue stream for the century old organization.

“We were beyond appreciative to Matt and his NCC ARPA team for shepherding us through the process every stop of the way,” said Stacey Inglis, Executive Director of Delaware Safety Council.

The funding will help to support and replace private funding lost during COVID for their Teen SmartDrive programs offered throughout the state.



Farm Safety Conference Viola, DE

We attended the *Delaware Farm Bureau's 7th Annual Safety Conference*, hosted by its Promotion & Education Committee. The annual event is run in partnership with Nationwide and the University of Delaware Cooperative Extension, and was held on March 20 at Loblolly Acres in Viola, Delaware.

The conference featured speakers throughout the day on a variety of topics. *"We really want to make sure that everyone who can attend does attend and that this information is freely accessible. We need to keep safety at the forefront of what we do to protect ourselves, our families, our workers and our consumers,"* said Executive Director Don Clifton.

Mr. Clifton was among the list of speakers presenting on *Improving Road Safety for Farm Equipment* along with Kent County Farm Bureau President Jim Minner.

"As farmers, we get into the daily grind of the day and sometimes we miss crucial steps to keep ourselves safe. We really can't let that happen. Some of this machinery that we use could be deadly if we don't take the right precautionary measures," he said.



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The conference also featured a presentation on Hearing Loss and Protection by Todd McMullen from Great Hearing Benefits, a member benefit for Delaware Farm Bureau members.

Chuck Thomp, director of customer relations and strategy for eFire USA, offered a presentation on Fire Realities and Mitigating the Risk, Protecting Property & Lives Through Pre-Planning & Awareness, speaking to the realities of fire risks. Dr. Kerry Richards of the University of Delaware Cooperative Extension rounded out the day with a presentation on pesticides.

“This Safety Conference is important not only for the farmer, but for the general public, as well. With the population growing as it is in the state, it’s very important to keep that education going and with large machinery and more cars, trucks and everything on the road, we have to keep everybody safe,”

said June Unruh, Delaware Farm Bureau member and Safety Conference chair.

Delaware Safety Council originated Farm Safety programs in Delaware dating back to the 1930’s. In our 1946-47 Annual Report, we show that the legendary George M. Worrilow was an officer with the Delaware Safety Council, holding the position of Vice President of Farm Safety, under the then Farm Safety Division.

George was a graduate of the University of Maryland with a B.S. in Agriculture and in 1954 his alma mater awarded him an honorary doctorate.

George had a presence at the University of Delaware from 1927 to 1971. He began his career there as an assistant Cooperative Extension agent and in 1941 he was made Professor of Dairy Husbandry. In 1943 he became Associate Director of the

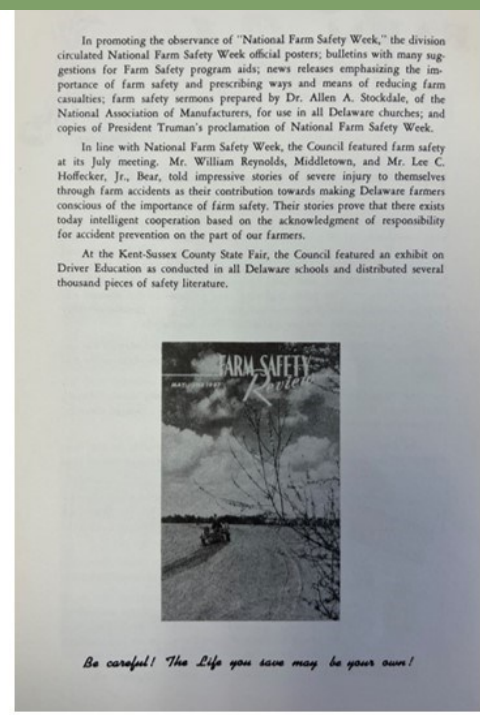
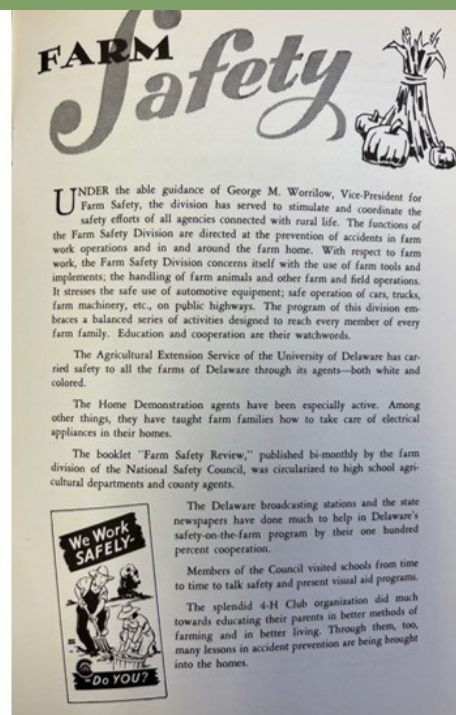
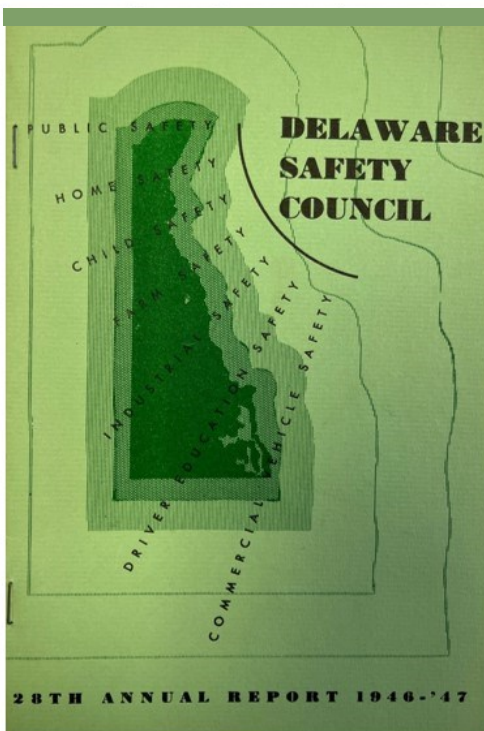
Agricultural Extension Service and in Director in 1948. He was eventually appointed Dean in 1954.

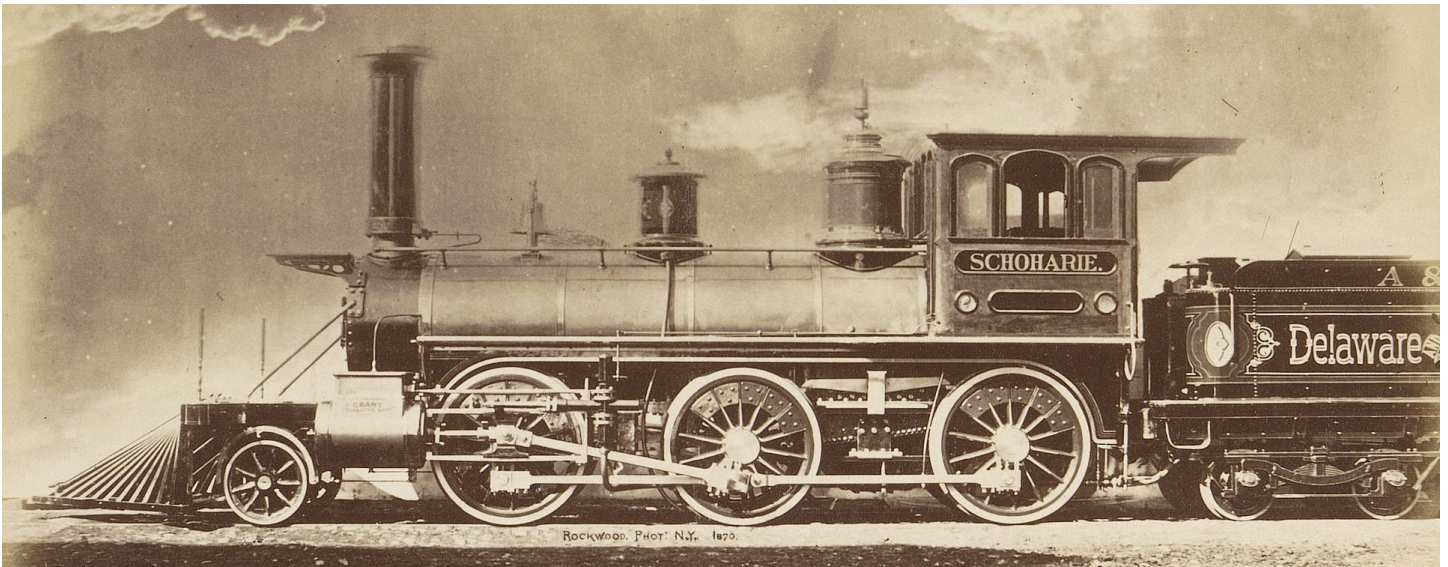
Later he was appointed Vice President of University Relations. He oversaw an academic unit that would become one of UD’s strengths, the Division of Urban Affairs. It was created in 1961 with a grant from the Ford Foundation and it is now the Joseph R. Biden, Jr. School of Public Policy and Administration.

His most time consuming role was that of liaison with the Delaware General Assembly lobbying for bills, bonds and funds. He retired from UD in 1968 and became Special Assistant to the Chairman of Farmers Bank. George died in 1975 at the age of 70 after having experiencing a stroke.

There is an annual UD Award in his honor.

[VIDEO CLIP ABOUT GEORGE](#)





Tracking the Trains. Heading South Again?

The possibility of a train like Amtrak could be coming to Sussex County. The Delaware Department of Transportation will begin a study in early 2024 to assess population density and demand for a railway that could facilitate travel from the top of the state to the coast.

According to DeIDOT, this study comes as a solution to heavily trafficked roads, saying the population growth in Sussex County has gone up 20 percent in the last decade. DeIDOT says the desire for a mode of transportation that is not driving a vehicle, continues to be a topic of discussion.

"This study is really the first of what will be many to determine what the feasibility is for down-state rail." said C.R. McLeod, DeIDOT Community Relations Director.

The Delaware Railroad was the major railroad in Delaware, traversing almost the entire state

north to south. It was planned in 1836 and built in the 1850s. It began in Porter and was extended south through Dover, Seaford and finally reached Delmar on the border of Maryland in 1859.

In 1891, it was extended north approximately 14 miles with the purchase of existing track to New Castle and Wilmington. With this additional track, the total length was 95.2 miles.

The railroad was conceived in 1836 by John M. Clayton, a former United States senator who obtained a charter from the Delaware General Assembly to serve the Delmarva Peninsula. He was concerned that a proposal in Maryland to build a line along the western side of the peninsula would harm Delaware's economy. Delaware was highly motivated and exempted the railroad from taxation for fifty years and provided other incentives. Clayton, William D.

Waples and Richard Mansfield were appointed as commissioners and a survey of the line was made. The Depression of 1837-1839 prevented investment in the railroad and the charter was forfeited.

The charter was renewed in 1848 under the promotion of Samuel M. Harrington. In 1853, the Philadelphia, Wilmington, and Baltimore Railroad guaranteed construction bonds, and the line was built from a junction with the New Castle and Frenchtown Railroad in Porter to Dover in 1855, and on to Seaford in 1856.

The first section was opened with an inaugural eight-car train north from Middletown on September 1, 1855, carrying the president of the railroad and that of the New Castle and Frenchtown Railroad, the chief engineer, and railroad contractors.

BLUE GOLD

ALL-STAR BASKETBALL GAMES

Holding Court for Traffic Safety

This year's High School *Blue Gold All-Star Basketball Games* had a distinctive safety theme. A portion of the proceeds this year went to Delaware Safety Council's teen driving program known as SmartDrive.

For decades, SmartDrive has worked with schools to educate teens and young drivers about safety on the road and making smart choices. A total of 61 boy and girl senior high school basketball stars from across the state played in the *Blue-Gold* games held at

Smyrna High School, on Saturday, March 16, 2024. There were over 800 attendees at this year's game.

Results for the boys, Gold outscored the Blue with a score of 160-159. The winning shot made by Smyrna High School's Obi Coleman. And for the girls, Blue won with a 105-78 score. The event was organized by Michael Wagner, Education Associate - Driver Education Student Support Team with Delaware's Department of Education.





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Between games, students participated in traffic safety activities held in the parking lot outside. Students who participated in the Traffic Safety Fan Experience activities were entered into a drawing for a \$500 scholarship. Emmanuel Vonhm of William Penn was this year's recipient. The Honorable Jane Brady, Board of Directors with Delaware Safety Council and Andrew Mears-President of DIBCA (Delaware Interscholastic Basketball Coaches Association) presented the check.

Traffic Safety Fan Zone Experience included exhibits from the Office of Highway Safety Department, VA Tech Transportation Institute, Department of Alcohol and Tobacco Enforcement, Delaware Safety Council's SmartDrive teen driving program, Delaware State Police, Smyrna Fire Department, Smyrna Police Department, Clayton Fire Department, Clayton Police Department and the Ambulance Service from the American Legion Ambulance Station #64.



Left to right: Guy VanderLek-Delaware Safety Council, Emmanuel Vonhm -William Penn-Traffic Safety Scholarship Winner, Honorable Jane Brady-Blue-Gold BOD and Delaware Safety Council BOD, Andrew Mears-President of DIBCA (Delaware Interscholastic Basketball Coaches Association).