



Lake County Integrates DUI Technology

Lake County is partnering with SCRAM Systems to help monitor drunk driving offenders. SCRAM's Continuous Alcohol Monitoring (SCRAM CAM) anklet monitors a person's alcohol level by testing their perspiration twice per hour. DUI offenders involved in crashes with serious injuries, those arrested with a high blood-alcohol content, and those with prior drunk driving arrest histories are mandated to fit a SCRAM CAM on their person post-bond.



THE SCRAM CAM ENABLES CONSISTENT ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION MONITORING. IMAGE SOURCE: SCRAM SYSTEMS

According to the Lake County government, the county is ranked fourth in the state in terms of drunk driving rates. One third of individuals arrested for drunk driving have repeatedly driven drunk. Convicted offenders may be sentenced to remain sober and monitored for up to 180 days. The SCRAM CAM can also be used for other offenses that involved alcohol, including domestic violence and assault.

The SCRAM CAM and similar technology has been in use for a while across the nation: Over 600,000 DUI offenders nationally and over 12,500 Illinois residents have been monitored with this technology. Lake County hopes this partnership will help to reduce alcohol-related dangerous offenses in the future. In 2017, over 300 fatal crashes related to alcohol were reported, accounting for about 30 percent of the all fatal crashes.

Source: Lake County. [Available online at <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/LLAKE/bulletins/1e77704>.]

Fatal School Bus Crash in New Jersey



A DAMAGED SCHOOL BUS IS INSPECTED AFTER A DEADLY CRASH ON I-80 NEAR MOUNT OLIVE, NEW JERSEY. SOURCE: WASHINGTON POST

A school bus crash in New Jersey has killed one student and one teacher on the afternoon of May 17. The school bus was on its way back to East Brook Middle

School from a field trip to Waterloo Village and was carrying 38 fifth grade students and seven adults when it collided with a dump truck.

Preliminary reports suggest that the bus driver allegedly missed an exit and resorted to an unauthorized U-turn. The driver, found to have a history of traffic violations, was charged with two counts of death by auto. The 43 other survivors were taken to local hospitals in various conditions. According to the New Jersey State Police, some patients are in critical condition. Two other school buses also carrying students back from the field trip returned to school unharmed.

Source: The Washington Post. [Available online at www.washingtonpost.com/news/education/wp/2018/05/18/new-jersey-school-bus-crash-that-killed-student-teacher-under-investigation-officials-say/]; USA Today. [Available online at northjersey.com/story/news/bergen/paramus/2018/05/18/school-bus-crash-nj-turn-rt-80-mount-olive/623022002]; New Jersey 101.5. [Available online at nj1015.com/traffic-cam-confirms-school-bus-crossed-3-lanes-after-missing-exit/]; WABC-TV. [Available online at abc7ny.com/nj-school-bus-driver-in-deadly-crash-appears-in-court/3520901.]

FIAT CHRYSLER CRUISE CONTROL RECALLS

Fiat Chrysler has recalled nearly 5 million vehicles after discovering a glitch in the cruise control system. The following lists the vehicles recalled for the glitch:

- 2014-2019 Ram 1500 pickup,
- 2014-2018 Ram 2500, 3500, 4500 and 5500 pickups and chassis cab trucks,
- 2015-2017 Chrysler 200,
- 2014-2018 Chrysler 300,
- 2017-2018 Chrysler Pacifica,
- 2015-2018 Dodge Challenger,
- 2014-2018 Dodge Charger, Journey, and Durango,
- 2014-2018 Cherokee and Grand Cherokee, and
- 2018 Wrangler

See page 3 for details.

Source: Chicago Tribune. [Available online at chicagotribune.com/classified/automotive/ct-fca-recall-cruise-control-20180525-story.html.]

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Illinois Severe Weather Activity Peaks in June

TIPS FOR SEVERE WEATHER SAFETY ON ROADWAYS

When severe weather strikes, vehicles on the road are vulnerable to the weather hazards, no matter how heavy the vehicle. Drivers should be aware of the forecast and of their surroundings when severe weather is expected so that they can seek shelter as soon as possible. If caught in severe weather, prioritize leaving the roadway and seeking shelter in a sturdy structure:

- Abandon your vehicle if possible, but *only if* you have found a sturdy place in which to seek shelter.
- Convenience stores, restaurants, and truck stops are just a few examples of places that may make appropriate shelters from severe weather.
- Avoid highway overpasses, as they can concentrate wind and increase risks of injury. Blocking overpasses will also cause traffic jams and impede drivers' ability to seek shelter.

Source: NWS Amarillo. [Available online at weather.gov/ama/severesafetytips.]



A TORNADO MAKES ITS WAY JUST EAST OF ROCHELLE, ILLINOIS, ON APRIL 9, 2015. PHOTO CREDIT: WALKER ASHLEY, STORM FORENSICS

Illinois may not be in the heart of Tornado Alley, but the state is nonetheless approaching that time of year when we expect to see the highest probability of severe weather. Based on a thirty-year climatology, the higher severe weather probabilities occur in May through July, peaking between early to mid June. While severe weather is typically associated with tornadoes, hazards more common to severe weather include hail, strong winds, and flooding.

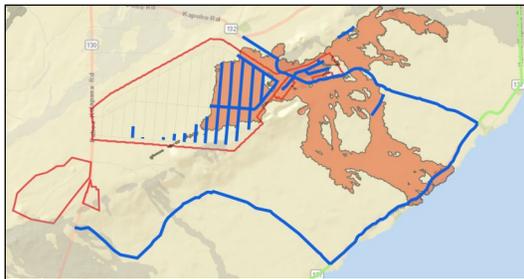
Vehicles of all types are vulnerable to damage or

Source: Storm Prediction Center. [Available online at www.spc.noaa.gov/new/SVRclimo/climo.php?parm=anySvr.]; NWS Amarillo. [Available online at weather.gov/ama/severesafetytips.]

destruction due to severe weather. For example, vehicles can not only be damaged by debris or hailstones, but can also be easily swept away by floodwaters or be flipped over from severe winds. Visibilities may also become impaired because of heavy precipitation. As such, drivers are urged to seek shelter if severe weather is imminent. To proactively avoid severe weather, drivers should adjust commute or travel schedules to before or after the storm, closely monitor weather conditions and forecasts, and know the basic geography of the area, such as the county in which they are driving, nearby municipalities, or nearby rivers.

Although severe thunderstorms can be forecasted over broad regions up to several days in advance, it is still difficult to pinpoint exactly where and when severe weather may occur. It is crucial for commuters to be aware of forecasts and be flexible in their travel schedules should severe weather be forecasted. Communities are encouraged to partner with the National Weather Service to become StormReady so that critical weather information can be efficiently conveyed to the community.

Kilauea's Lava Flows Jeopardize Evacuation Routes



MAP OF EVACUATION MANDATES (RED OUTLINE), ROAD CLOSURES (BLUE), AND LAVA FLOW (ORANGE POLYGON) ON HAWAII ISLAND. SOURCE: HAWAII COUNTY

As Kilauea Volcano's fissures continue to spew lava, Hawaii County officials and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) worry that the lava will affect key evacuation routes, increasing the possibility of the need for large scale evacuations. The shield volcano's new fissures had begun erupting in the

beginning of May, following an onset of earthquakes in the Big Island. Residents of nearby Leilani Estates have already been ordered to evacuate due to invading molten rock.

There are only two paved routes that lead to the southeast communities of the Puna district of Leilani Estates, Kalapana, and Paho: Hawaii Route 130 (HI-130) and a local Beach Road. Already, parts of HI-130 are closed due to the lava. Officials fret that if either adjacent route HI-132 or HI-137 is hit by lava, then mass evacuation of the entire region may be necessary to mitigate resident isolation.

The eruption renders the communities of the Puna district vulnerable not only to the lava, but also to sulfur dioxide fumes and volcanic debris. The volcanic activity is expected to continue through the next few weeks.

Source: Reuters. [Available online at reuters.com/article/us-hawaii-volcano/access-roads-at-risk-hawaii-volcano-could-spur-more-evacuations-idUSKCN1HF278.]



St. Louis to Tackle Pedestrian Deaths

Although the trend has been decreasing since 2015, the number of pedestrian deaths in St. Louis is still higher than it was in its lowest year, 2009, according to the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT). St. Louis officials are hopeful that they can help bring down these numbers once again; their plans to improve safety for pedestrians include installing rapid-flashing beacon lights at selected crosswalks, installing speed humps in local roads, increasing the number of crosswalks on the roadways, and also adjusting the timing of the walk sign so that pedestrians can begin crossing before the green light for cars.

A report by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety noted that, nationally, pedestrian deaths are 46 percent higher in 2016

than they were in 2009. MoDOT and the City of St. Louis believe that the increase in pedestrian deaths is a problem that both drivers and pedestrians must work together to collectively address. Smart phones may also be contributing to an overall increase in distractions. Pe-

destrian deaths are often associated with SUVs, whose higher front ends can strike a pedestrian's head or chest area more easily.

In 2017, Illinois observed 140 fatal traffic crashes related to pedestrians, of which seven occurred in the East St. Louis area of St. Clair and Madison counties, according to the Illinois State



A PEDESTRIAN JAYWALKS ACROSS A BUSY ROAD, SMARTPHONE IN HAND. PHOTO CREDIT: ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Police. All but one of these seven fatal pedestrian-related crashes occurred on Illinois state routes. Meanwhile, 107 of the 140 pedestrian-related crashes occurred in the greater Chicago metropolitan and Rockford areas of Cook, DuPage, Lake, Kane, Will, McHenry, DeKalb, and Winnebago counties.

Source: St. Louis Post-Dispatch. [Available online at stltoday.com/news/traffic/along-for-the-ride/st-louis-tries-to-make-city-safer-for-pedestrians-as/article_3dd81465-8f47-51a6-8b40-6d23ab741cee.html.]; Illinois State Police.

Fiat Chrysler Recalls for Cruise Control Glitch

Road Safety and Business



Fiat Chrysler is recalling nearly 5 million vehicles in relation to a cruise control glitch that was found while testing the vehicle's computer networks. When the glitch occurs, the cruise control would not disengage even when brakes are applied or when the feature is turned off. This has led to at least one potential incident that suggested the cruise control glitch as a possible cause. In a complaint filed to the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA), the driver of a 2017 Dodge

Journey claimed that when the driver tried to slow down, the engine fought the brakes to try to sustain the 70 mph speed at which the cruise control was initially set.

The NHTSA recommends drivers for select 2014-2018 model Ram, Chrysler, Dodge, and Jeep vehicles avoid engaging cruise control until the glitch is debugged and a software update available. Should the cruise control glitch, drivers are advised to shift the vehicle to neutral, forcefully apply the brakes to slow down and pull over, and then shift the vehicle to park once it has reached a full stop. Putting the vehicle in park should cancel the cruise control altogether.

Source: Chicago Tribune. [Available online at chicagotribune.com/classified/automotive/ct-fca-recall-cruise-control-20180525-story.html.]

Year-To-Date Traffic Fatality Statistics

May 28, 2018

356 Fatal Crashes*
388 Fatalities*

On this day last year:

363 Fatal Crashes
399 Fatalities

11 Below

Fatalities change

* Provisional, subject to change
Source: IDOT

Last Month's Weather Digest

April, 2018
Springfield, IL

Average High: 59.7°F
4.9°F cooler than normal

Average Low: 36.1°F
6.3°F cooler than normal

Total Precipitation: 2.18 in.
1.33 in. drier than normal

Total Snow: 4.8 in.
4.5 in. more than normal

Source: National Weather Service
Lincoln, IL





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May is Motorcycle Awareness Month

With temperatures warming to welcome the spring season, the number of people riding motorcycles will increase. This also means that the number of accidents involving motorcycles will also increase. Because of their relatively small size compared to passenger vehicles, motorcycles often are overlooked and become involved in traffic crashes. Governor Bruce Rauner has advocated Illinois’s “Start Seeing Motorcycles” campaign, an initiative that works to raise awareness of motorcycles.

In 2017, 162 motorcyclists were killed in traffic crashes, accounting for about 15 percent of the 1,097 traffic-related deaths. This ratio is, however, disproportionately large because motorcycles represent only three percent of registered vehicles. Furthermore, the number of motorcycle deaths has increased from 154 to 162 between 2016 and 2017, what Secretary of the Illinois Department of Transportation Randall Blenkinshorn called “the wrong direction” in terms of the change in motorcycle deaths with respect to year.

Nationally, motorcycle deaths were lower in 2017 than they were in 2016, but the Governor’s Highway Safety Association believes that this is because active tropical weather near the U.S. coastlines last year discouraged people from riding their motorcycles altogether in populated areas such as Houston, Miami, and New Orleans.

Source: Start Seeing Motorcycles. [Available online at startseeingmotorcycles.org.]; My Stateline. [Available online at www.mystateline.com/news/start-seeing-motorcycles-162-people-died-in-motorcycle-accidents-in-illinois-in-2017.]; Chicago Tribune [Available online at www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/breaking/ct-met-motorcycle-deaths-20180430-story.html]

Catching Illegal School Bus Passers



**CAMERAS LIKE THESE CAN CATCH
ILLEGAL PASSERS.
PHOTO SOURCE: FOX59**

An Indiana school district is installing security cameras on their school buses by the beginning of the next school year in an effort to catch drivers who illegally pass buses while its stop arm is out. Lebanon Community Schools have already begun preliminary testing of its cameras on one of its school buses two months ago. With the help of this technology, more than a dozen drivers have been caught illegally passing school buses.

The camera records footage of the roadway when the school bus stops. The driver can also push a button to flag a timestamp on the recording to note when a car has illegally passed. Footage is sent to the prosecutor’s office to determine the need for a traffic ticket. According to the Indiana Department of Education, over 2,000 incidents of vehicles illegally passing school buses have been reported, showing a dire need for the law enforcement to make sure drivers are properly stopping for school buses.

Source: FOX59. [Available online at fox59.com/2018/05/17/new-camera-on-lebanon-school-bus-catches-drivers-passing-illegally.]

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