

Mississippi Law Enforcement Liaison Project

The Law Enforcement Liaison Project was funded and developed in Mississippi through the University of Southern Mississippi as its sub-grantee in 1995.

The primary mission of the Law Enforcement Liaison project is to provide technical assistance and on-site training to all Mississippi law enforcement agencies, which include 9 Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol - Troop Districts, 82 County Sheriff's Departments, and 250 Municipal Police Departments as well as other Police Agencies, in order to reduce the number of alcohol/drug related traffic crashes and fatalities upon Mississippi roadways. In addition, the Law Enforcement Liaison project continues to present traffic safety related information to Prosecutor's, County and Municipal Judges; Chiefs of Police as well as Sheriffs. The Law Enforcement Liaison project continues to oversee the coordination of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) funded programs and core curriculums and the Mississippi Traffic Enforcement Network (MSTEN) LEL-Troop Coordinator activities. Programs include: the Click It or Ticket; Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over; and Safe and Sober National Enforcement Campaigns. Curriculums and advanced training include: Standardized Field Sobriety Testing (SFST) certification training, Standardized Field Sobriety Testing re-certification training (SFST refresher), Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) certification training, Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE), Complete Traffic Stops (CTS), Traffic Occupant Protection Strategies (TOPS), and other occupant protection training such as Child Passenger Safety Technician (CPST). The Law Enforcement Liaison project continues to manage, schedule, and provide these training opportunities for law enforcement officers throughout the state. The Law Enforcement Liaison staff continue to work with the Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor (TSRP) and the Judicial Outreach Liaison (JOL) to help combat impaired driving statewide.

The Mississippi Law Enforcement Liaison staff members are continually evaluating Mississippi's current and trending traffic safety issues as well as problem identification so that appropriate countermeasures may be strategically developed, utilized and implemented. Mississippi's need for Standardized Field Sobriety Testing, Complete Traffic Stops, Traffic Occupant Protection Strategies, Child Passenger Safety Technician, Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement and Drug Recognition Expert training are proven as effective traffic safety countermeasures and are continued to be offered by the Law Enforcement Liaison project.

Injuries and fatalities to teen drivers and passengers as well as injuries and fatalities to the motorcyclist driver and rider have been identified as an emerging traffic safety issue that needs to be addressed. In addition to teen and motorcyclist, Mississippi has also identified a declining conviction rate in DUI cases, which can be aided by the implementation of law enforcement phlebotomy and no refusal weekends. The Law Enforcement Liaison projects provides an integral role in the development and implementation of public safety countermeasure training and outreach information dissemination regarding ALL identified traffic safety issues through all traffic safety partners.

In addition to continuing, developing, implementation and training in all areas of traffic safety, the Law Enforcement Liaison project also participated in the planning and coordination of Mississippi's first in-state Traffic Safety Symposium in September 2013.

The Law Enforcement Liaison staff continue to assist law enforcement agencies through coordination with MSTEN-LEL Troop Coordinators, PI&E campaigns, traffic enforcement safety checkpoints, DUI saturation patrols, safety fairs, community presentations, and any other areas where law enforcement request assistance with traffic safety issues.

During FY2012 and FY2013, the Law Enforcement Liaison project expanded in many endeavors. The Law Enforcement Liaison staff attended and/or coordinated 48 schools, in addition to various meetings and conferences including:

- ✓ Mississippi Standardized Field Sobriety Testing Instructor School.
- ✓ Mississippi Drug Recognition Expert Training School.
- ✓ Lifesavers - Highway Safety Priorities Conference.
- ✓ NHTSA: Region VI - Law Enforcement Liaison Conference.
- ✓ Law Enforcement Institute Annual Conference.
- ✓ NHTSA / IACP Annual Impaired Driving Conference.
- ✓ Mississippi DUI 100 Club Awards Banquet.
- ✓ Mississippi Buckle for Life Awards Banquet.
- ✓ Mississippi Traffic Safety Symposium.
- ✓ Click It or Ticket; activities and events.
- ✓ Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over; activities and events.
- ✓ Mississippi Association of Chiefs of Police Conferences.
- ✓ Mississippi Sheriff's Association Conferences.
- ✓ Mississippi Association of Highway Safety Leaders meetings.
- ✓ Mississippi Municipal and Justice Court Judges Conferences.
- ✓ Mississippi Prosecutors' Trainings.
- ✓ Eight occupant protection and alcohol/drug presentations were made to the Mississippi Judicial College, Law Enforcement Institute and various task forces and conferences.
- ✓ Liaison staff coordinated, administered, and instructed 21 Standardized Field Sobriety Testing/Traffic Occupant Protection Strategies Classes were administered through the Mississippi Alcohol Safety Education Program. Approximately 297 officers from 85 agencies were trained.
- ✓ Nine Complete Traffic Stops classes were conducted, training 200 law enforcement officers from across the state.
- ✓ All 250 law enforcement agencies are contacted throughout the year.
- ✓ The SFST re-certification program continued. Twenty-one refresher courses were taught and approximately 80 law enforcement officers were re-certified.

Current Goals and Objectives

The goal of the Mississippi Law Enforcement Liaison Project is to provide technical assistance and training to law enforcement agencies throughout the State, disseminate information related to traffic safety, and promote MOHS and NHTSA's National Campaign messages across the State in the areas of occupant protection, standardized field sobriety, impaired driving and other highway safety related problems and issues.

Objective 1: Oversee and coordinate Standardized Field Sobriety Testing training (approximately 16 classes), Standardized Field Sobriety Testing Refresher Certification (approximately 16 classes), Complete Traffic Stops (approximately 4 classes), Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (approximately 8 classes), Standardized Field Sobriety Testing Instructor (approximately 1 class); Mobile Video Practitioners Training (approximately 1 class) and Drug Recognition Expert Training (approximately 1 class). Implement law enforcement phlebotomy training and to develop no refusal protocol and standard operating procedures.

Objective 2: Oversee and coordinate statewide Traffic Occupant Protection Strategies included within the 16 SFST training classes, as well as additional Traffic Occupant Protection Strategies training sessions at the request of the MSTEN-LEL Troop Coordinators during Troop Traffic Enforcement Network meetings/luncheons; as well as, providing in-service training for individual agencies upon agency request.

Objective 3: Disseminate and assist law enforcement agencies in promoting and extending all National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) National Campaign messages, provide Public Information and Education campaigns, traffic enforcement safety checkpoints, DUI saturation patrols, safety fairs and other various community presentations as needed during the year through the statewide Law Enforcement Liaison network, Mississippi Association of Chiefs of Police, Mississippi Sheriff's Association, Mississippi Association of Highway Safety Leaders and all other available avenues of information sharing.

The Mississippi Law Enforcement Liaison Program continually evaluates the usefulness and necessity of its programs by tracking training attendance, requests for training from agency administrators, prosecutors and judges, the statewide number of impaired driving arrests and the statewide number of injury and fatal crashes. Over the last five years, Mississippi has experienced a steady decline in fatal crashes and an increase in impaired driving arrests. Law enforcement officers throughout Mississippi are successfully apprehending and/or deterring impaired driving thus saving lives on Mississippi roadways.

Our horizon goals through legislative action are implementation and strengthening of Mississippi laws to aid in the deterrence of distracted driving, increase proper seatbelt and child restraint use, in addition to the deterrence and apprehension of drug and alcohol impaired drivers and increase conviction rates of arrests.