



# interchange

2017 — ISSUE 2



## The New #77

No distraction is worth a ticket or your life. April marked the Division's 4th annual **U Drive. U Text. UPay** campaign and nearly two hundred law enforcement agencies throughout the State received grant funding totaling approximately \$1.2 million as part of this high visibility enforcement campaign. In early April, Attorney General Chris Porrino together with the Division of Highway Traffic Safety and the Division of State Police announced the re-branding of the State's #77 Program. This new program allows motorists to report all forms of dangerous driving. Traffic fatalities average 12 deaths per week in New Jersey with an increase from 562 in 2015 to 604 in 2016. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 3,477 people were killed in 2015 and 391,000 were injured in motor vehicle crashes involving distracted drivers. Teens were the largest age group reported as distracted at the time of fatal crashes. "These deaths and injuries are not simply statistics. Those are husbands and wives, sons and daughters, parents and grandparents. How many would still be alive today if others had been paying full attention to driving?" said Attorney General Porrino.

[Attorney General Chris Porrino Discusses the New Initiative on NJTV News](#)

## SPOTLIGHT

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, in 2015, 3,477 people were killed, and 391,000 were injured in motor vehicle crashes involving distracted drivers.

[Famous Last Words Video Link](#)



## IN THE NEWS

- [See a Distracted Driver — Here's the Number to Call in NJ](#)
- [Device Aiming to Stop Distracted Driving Being Considered in New York](#)
- [Man, 27, Killed in Toms River Motorcycle Crash, Cops Say](#)
- [How Drivers and Motorcyclists Can Make NJ's Roads Safer for Each Other](#)

## International Ride to Work Day

International Ride to Work Day, which was observed on Monday, June 19th, celebrates the joys of motorcycle riding. As you take to the road this summer, whether as part of your daily commute or simply for weekend fun and enjoyment, we urge you to remember that safety comes first. The unique freedom of the road that comes from riding also comes with great responsibility, your safety and the safety of others.

Although great strides have been taken, there is still a great deal of work to do to make riding safer. Drivers and motorcyclists alike carry the responsibility of sharing our roads to ensure each other's safety. In 2015, there were 4,976 motorcyclists killed, an 8 percent increase from the 4,594 fatalities in 2014. Motorcyclist deaths occurred nearly 29 times more often than passenger car occupant fatalities in traffic crashes per vehicle mile traveled.

First and foremost, safe motorcycle riding starts with helmets. Helmets saved 1,772 motorcyclists' lives in 2015. 740 additional lives could have been saved if all motorcyclists had worn a helmet. In States without universal helmet laws, 58 percent of motorcyclists killed in 2015 were not wearing helmets, as compared to 8 in States with universal helmet laws.

## Motorcycle Safety Programs in NJ:

90% of the riders who are involved in crashes have no formal training. [Motorcycle Safety Foundation \(MSF\)](#) Training Programs are designed to help new or experienced riders suffer fewer injuries in the event of a crash or possibly avoid crashes altogether. Other potential benefits of a credited training program include road test waivers, insurance discounts and license point deductions. For a complete list of MSF certified RiderCourse training locations in New Jersey, please visit our partner organization [NJRIDESAFE.ORG](#).

## Secure Your Load

According to a recent [study by the AAA Foundation for Safety](#), more than 200,000 crashes over the past four years were caused by road debris. Those crashes resulted in approximately 39,000 injuries and 500 deaths between 2011 and 2014. Robin Abel of Seattle, Washington was made all too aware of the dangers of this avoidable hazard when her daughter, Maria was catastrophically injured by an unsecured load. Abel has spent the better part of the last decade raising awareness in an attempt to prevent further injuries and death. This year, the State of New Jersey joins her in those efforts by declaring June 6th "Secure Your Load Day." We encourage all of our partners to join us in supporting Robin and this important initiative.

[NJ "Secure Your Load Day" Proclamation](#)

## UPCOMING EVENTS & TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

- Child Passenger Safety Technician Certification Course registration can be accessed through the link below with course offerings through July: [CPS Certification](#)
- Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over — August
- DRE Training — [FY2017 DRE Application](#)
- [Save the Date](#): 13th NHTSA Region 2 CPS Technical Conference — March 19–21, 2018 @ the Ocean Place Resort, Long Branch



# SAFE PASSAGE

*moving toward zero fatalities*

[WWW.NJSAFEROADS.COM](http://WWW.NJSAFEROADS.COM)

