

## South Central Region's traffic safety plan earns national recognition in D.C.

*Awardees are featured on 2013 Noteworthy Practices Guide*

The 14-year-old South Central Safe Community Partnership (SCSCP) recently received the 2013 National Roadway Safety Award for the work it has done by far in implementing a proactive, data-driven action plan called the South Central Regional Transportation Safety Plan (SCRTSP). The SCSCP and SCRTSP are efforts coordinated through the South Central Planning and Development Commission (SCPDC) in Houma.

The USDOT's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Roadway Safety Foundation (RSF) present the biennial awards to road safety programs across the nation exhibiting excellence in roadway

design, operations and planning. Awardees are being featured on the 2013 Noteworthy Practices Guide.

At the awards ceremony on Capitol Hill, the SCSCP Chairman and LA State Police Troop C Commander Capt. Darrin Naquin accepted the award on behalf of the task force, along with the SCPDC's CEO Kevin Belanger and Transportation Safety Coordinator Rudynah Capone.

The SCRTSP mirrors the same vision, mission and goals set by Louisiana's statewide Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP).

*National Award ... turn to Page 2*



*All awardees pose with USDOT Deputy Secretary John Porcari (center).*

## MEETING NOTICE

Members of the South Central Safe Community Partnership (SCSCP) meet quarterly. The next meeting is on February 20, 2014, 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the Pelican Room of SCPDC located at 5058 West Main St., Houma LA. For more info, please email [rudynah@scpdc.org](mailto:rudynah@scpdc.org) or call (985) 851-2900.

## On Zero for December: Unreached but deaths drop by 75% in Troop C

Law enforcement's efforts in saving lives over the holidays have paid off.

The Louisiana State Police Troop C's decade-old awareness and enforcement campaign, Zero for December, has not reached its zero goal yet but the troop has seen the biggest success by far.

"The region had two fatalities this past December, compared to 8 in 2012," shared Troop C's PIO Evan Harrell. This significant decrease of 75% further moves us closer to our goal.

"We hope that one day we will have no deaths, at least in the month of December," Harrell added.

This campaign is in time for the nationwide Drive Sober holiday enforcement campaign which the SCSCP strongly supports year-round.



## Safety grants awarded to 53 police agencies

Aimed at eliminating impaired drivers off the road, the LA Highway Safety Commission (LHSC) has awarded traffic safety grants to 53 law enforcement agencies across the state.

Numerous DWI checkpoints and saturation patrols were done over Christmas and New Year's holidays, and it will continue to be conducted throughout 2014, especially during major holiday weekends.

Drunk driving continues to be a major problem in this state, said LHSC PIO Elaine Rougeau.

"About 41 percent of people killed on Louisiana roads last year were involved in alcohol related crashes," she specified.

Public safety officials and local citizens continue to hope that the nationwide Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over campaign will do better in the succeeding years. "Drunk driving violators often face jail time, loss of license, high insurance rates and dozens of unexpected expenses," Rougeau added.

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In the South Central Region, the LA State Police Troop C join forces with the Sheriff's Offices of Assumption, Lafourche, Terrebonne, St. James and St. John as well as the Police Departments of Thibodaux, Houma, Lockport, Gramercy and Lusher to enforce impaired driving and increase public safety awareness.

## National Award... from Page 1

The SCRTSP, which is funded through LA Department of Transportation and Development (LADOTD), seeks to implement traffic safety projects at the regional and local levels, with a target of reducing the number of roadway fatalities in the region by 50% in 2030. Efforts are aimed at four emphasis areas, namely: Occupant Protection; Impaired Driving; Young Drivers; and Infrastructure.

"We are proud to honor your work in creating a path towards zero deaths," said Gregory Cohen, P.E., the Executive Director of RSF. "Your plan can serve as a model for others as they put their traffic safety plans to paper."

Capt. Naquinn noted that the SCSCP coalition has been in existence for over a decade. "We have managed to maintain the momentum of work in our region, and we will continue collaborate to save lives," he said.

SCPCD's CEO Kevin Belanger echoed how the plan was successfully put together because of the strong collaboration between members of the Safe Community Partnership.

Program Planning, Development, and Evaluation Category

# Winner

Louisiana: South Central Regional Transportation Safety Plan

<b>THE SAFETY CONCERN</b>	Need to reduce fatalities and injuries related to alcohol-related driving, occupant protection, young drivers, and infrastructure and operations.	The South Central Regional Transportation Safety Plan (SCRTSP) is the first regional, data-driven action plan developed in Louisiana as part of the State's efforts to implement its Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP). It is a living document that adopts and disseminates the SHSP "Vision Zero/Driver" goals and strategies down to the regional and local levels.
<b>THE SOLUTION</b>	A partnership that uses a data-driven action plan to identify regional and local projects that will address four safety emphasis areas:	
<b>THE RESULT</b>	Measured reductions in alcohol-related serious injuries as well as in serious injuries resulting from lack of seatbelt use.	

The SCRTSP is the product of the strong partnership among Federal, State and local agencies from six parishes in the region—including the South Central Planning & Development Commission (SCPCD), the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LADOTD), and the Houma-Thibodaux Metropolitan Planning Organization (HTMPO). With ongoing support from these stakeholders, the SCRTSP uses action plans to undertake regional and local projects addressing four emphasis areas—occupant protection, alcohol-related driving, crashes involving young drivers, and infrastructure. The strategic process involves stakeholders at every level of government and includes appropriate representation for addressing the E's of safety—engineering, enforcement, education, and emergency response. Implementation is ongoing; emphasis area teams meet regularly to develop, implement, and monitor SHSP strategies.

As a result of the SCRTSP, stakeholders have greater guidance for implementing data-driven and low-cost safety engineering projects to reduce crashes. Innovative SCRTSP programs include using Breath Alcohol Testing (BAT) Media Units at saturation patrols and sobriety checkpoints, expanding teen driver education efforts (e.g., drunk, unbelted, and distracted driving), and conducting the biannual Regional Impaired Driving Workshop and Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE) training for law enforcement officers. Safety grant funds from FHWA, the Louisiana Highway Safety Commission, and the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LADOTD) pay for these programs. Volunteer hours of service from partner agencies also are used.

As of August 2013, 70 percent of the plan has been implemented. With the assistance of Louisiana State University, LADOTD, and contractor partners, the coalition has determined that there has been a decline in the South Central Region's 5-year average of fatalities and serious injuries where lack of seatbelt use or driving under the influence of alcohol are causal factors. SCRTSP's combined 4E approach is slowly paying off; ongoing implementation will help the region achieve its goal of a 50 percent fatality reduction by 2030.

Agency: South Central Planning and Development Commission  
 Contact: Kevin Belanger  
 Telephone: 855-851-2900  
 Email: kbw@scpcd.org

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The SCRTSP is featured on Page 10 of the 2013 Noteworthy Practices Guide, which is posted on <http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov>

"The public is taking heed of the awareness campaigns we put out there," Mr. Belanger gladly said.

Recently, Houma Region's seat belt compliance rate is now at 85.5%, which is higher than the statewide's 82.5%. Kudos to all partners.

### Capturing Safety Through The Lens: A teen safety driving photo and video contest

**Calling all high school clubs in the Bayou Region!**

The South Central Safe Community Partnership (SCSCP) in cooperation with Lafourche Parish School Board is inviting all public & private high school clubs and student councils in the Bayou Region to join "Capturing Safety Through The Lens" A Teen Safety Driving Photo and Video Contest.

Sponsored by State Farm, this regionwide contest hopes to encourage teenage drivers to advocate for safe driving decisions and become the voice of positive messaging in their respective schools and communities. It also aims to highlight involvement from parents and teachers by motivating young drivers to drive responsibly and safely. Students are given an opportunity to bring out their creativity and resourcefulness while fostering comradship on and off campus.

**Kickoff Date:** October 23, 2013  
**2020 AM © Central Lafourche High School**  
 4820 Highway 1, Bogalusa, LA 70304

**Submission Dates:** November 1, 2013 to January 30, 2014  
**Judging Day:** February 7, 2014  
**Awarding Ceremony:** February 30, 2014

(Both Judging & Awarding Days will be held @ 10 AM at the South Central Planning & Development Commission, 5058 West Main Street, Houma LA 70306)

**PRIZES:**  
 Grand Winner in Photo: Trophy + TV exposure + Goodies + \$250 Cash  
 Grand Winner in Video: Trophy + TV exposure + Goodies + \$250 Cash  
 1st Runner Up in Photo: Trophy + Goodies  
 1st Runner Up in Video: Trophy + Goodies

All participating clubs will receive recognition and be given an opportunity to become pioneer members of the Bayou Region Youth Traffic Safety Advisory Group. Winners will be showcased in SCSCP partner agencies and the public. They'll also be acknowledged in the statewide Louisiana Traffic Safety Summit on March 18-20, 2014 in Baton Rouge.

**CRITERIA FOR JUDGING (same in both photo and video):**  
 Originality 40%  
 Creativity 30%  
 Overall Message 30%  
 TOTAL 100%

**ELIGIBILITY AND RULES:**  
 \* Any high school club in the Parishes of Assumption, Lafourche and Terrebonne can submit one video or photo entry, or both. An entry form must be filled out and submitted along with a letter of endorsement signed by both club advisor and principal.  
 \* If any member of the participating club is below 18 years old, he or she should submit a Parental Consent & Media Release Waiver, signed by a Parent/Guardian.  
 \* Photo and video entries must have teenagers present in them and should address at least one or a combination of these traffic safety focused areas:  
 (1) Driving Under the Influence (DUI) of alcohol and/or drug  
 (2) Occupant Protection (use of seat belts)  
 (3) Looking behind the wheel or any form of distracted driving  
 \* Language use must be suitable to young audiences, including children.  
 \* Photo entries must be submitted in high-resolution end of JPEG format. On the entry form, please elaborate the safety message in 100 words or less.  
 \* Video entries must be between 30 seconds and one minute, saved in MOV format and contain an original safety message in the script.  
 \* Most importantly, please do not violate any Louisiana Traffic Safety laws while filming your submissions.  
 \* Failure to follow all the rules will result in disqualification.  
 \* For more questions, email: rudynah@scpcd.org

**ENTRY SUBMISSION:**  
 \*Photo and/or video entries must be saved in a USB flash drive and submitted along with a signed entry form, endorsement letter and Parental Consent/Media Release Waiver by HAND DELIVERY or MAIL to: South Central Safe Community Partnership or MAIL to: South Central Safe Community Partnership c/o South Central Planning & Development Commission 5058 West Main Street, Houma, LA 70304 P. O. Box 1870, Grey, LA 70359

## Deadline for submission of photo & video entries extended to Feb. 17

The SCSCP announces that the deadline for high school clubs in the Bayou Region to submit their entries for the teen safety driving photo and video contest has been extended to Monday, Feb. 17, 2014.

The original deadline is Jan. 30. This new timeframe will provide students another two weeks to produce their creative photos and videos that contain messages related to addressing seat belt use, impaired driving, distracted driving such as texting behind the wheel. Visit SCSCP via [www.scpcd.org](http://www.scpcd.org) or email [rudynah@scpcd.org](mailto:rudynah@scpcd.org) for more info.

# SAFETY PARTNERS IN ACTION

## Zero for December Campaign Kickoff and MADD's Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony - November 21, 2013

Following the Quarterly SCSCP Meeting on November 21, 2013 was the kick-off of LSP Troop C's decade-running Zero for December Campaign which also featured the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony put together by MADD's Bayou Region chapter to pay tribute to drunk driving victims. On right photo is MADD's volunteer service coordinator Valerie Cox handing out an award to LSP Trooper First Class William Powell who ticketed the most drunken drivers (57 arrests) in Troop C area in 2013. Photos below show SCSCP Chairman and LSP Troop C Commander Capt. Darrin Naquin giving his welcome message; Mary Kay Tracy and granddaughter Angel rendering a duet song; and (from left) Assumption SO's Capt. Ray Traigle, Mary Kay Tracy (MADD), Capt. Naquin, Ava Fontenot and Valerie Cox (MADD), LSP Troop C PIO Evan Harrell, and Lafourche SO's Lt. Doug Foreman. Alcohol and Tobacco Control's Enforcement Agent Michael Russell (not in photo) also graced the event to give a talk on underage drinking enforcement.



## National Roadway Safety Awards Ceremony November 6, 2013 in Washington D.C.

In the recent National Roadway Safety Awards, the SCSCP was chosen as one of the recipients in the program planning category, specifically for having developed the South Central Regional Transportation Safety Plan (SCRTSP) that mirrors Louisiana's Strategic Highway Safety Plan's (SHSP) priorities. SCSCP Chairman Capt. Darrin Naquin (center) accepted the award on behalf of the task force. He's joined by FHWA Associate Safety Administrator Tony Furst (left) and Roadway Safety Foundation's Executive Director Greg Cohen (right).



## National Night Out Against Crime October 15, 2013

The SCSCP supported the Gazebo Houma Neighborhood Watch's National Night Out Against Crime event on Oct. 15, 2013 at the Bouquet Pavilion of Southdown Plantation House. Local firemen, law enforcement officers and residents gathered to celebrate good neighbors and good food as they campaigned against crime. In photo, LA State Police Troop C's PIO Evan Harrell did a seat belt rollover demonstration to educate the citizens about what could possibly happen if you're not buckled up in case your vehicle crashes.

# ONGOING & UPCOMING EVENTS



## Child Safety Seat Checkup Events Jan. 10 and 18, 2014

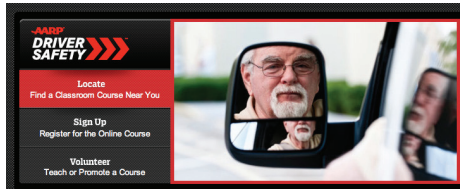
The SCSC'Ps Regional Child Passenger Safety Team, headed by Mike Toups of the Houma Police Department, in partnership with the Catholic Diocese will conduct two sets of child seat checkup events: Jan. 10 at 9 AM to 1 PM at the Holy Rosary Church in Houma, and on Jan. 18 at 9 AM to 2:30 PM at the Holy Cross Church in Morgan City. Assistance from CPS techs in the region will be appreciated. Email [mtoups10@gmail.com](mailto:mtoups10@gmail.com) for more info.

**BELIEVE IN RESPONSIBILITY**  
**DESIGNATE A SOBER DRIVER**



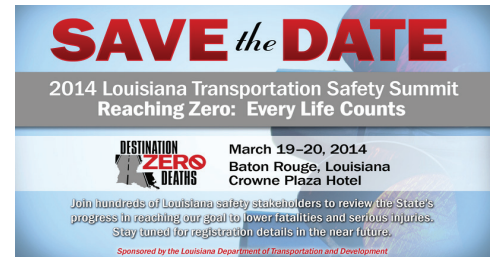
## Super Bowl Impaired Driving Campaign February 2, 2014

As Super Bowl Sunday approaches and football fans across the country prepare for the game, the SCSCP joins forces with the LA Highway Safety Commission and LA Department of Transportation and Development in spreading the word about designating a sober driver during this biggest sporting event in the nation. Motorists are reminded that *Fans Don't Let Fans Drive Drunk.*



## AARP Smart Driver Course in Lafourche & Terrebonne Ongoing until December 2014

A series of AARP's Smart Driving Course will be held at the Terrebonne Council on Aging, 995 Tunnel Boulevard in Houma, 9AM to 1 PM on February 11, May 13, August 12 and November 4, 2014. Also, two classes are scheduled at the Lafourche Council on Aging, 4876 Highway 1 in Mathews, 9AM to 1 PM, on June 10 and December 9. Class fee is \$15 for AARP members. If you are interested in scheduling a class, contact Wade and Ruther Hebert at (985) 876-6245 or email [pawah@bellsouth.net](mailto:pawah@bellsouth.net)



## Louisiana Traffic Safety Summit March 19-20, 2014

Online registration is now open for the LA Traffic Safety Summit on March 19-20, 2014 in Baton Rouge. Every other year, the LADOTD brings together safety partners from around the state in order to review its progress in reaching its mission: "Destination Zero Deaths." Register through <https://www.ltrc.lsu.edu/safetysummit/index.html>.

## South Central Regional Traffic Safety Summit May 13, 2014

Please mark your calendar for our annual South Central Regional Traffic Safety Summit on May 13, 2014, 8 AM to 4 PM at the Houma Civic Center. Registration will open soon. Stand by for more details or email [rudynah@scpcdc.org](mailto:rudynah@scpcdc.org).





## HELPFUL SITES:

- South Central Planning and Development Commission:** <http://www.scpcdc.org>
- Louisiana Highway Safety Commission:** <http://www.lahighwaysafety.org>
- National Highway Traffic Safety Administration:** <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/safecommunities>
- Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development:** <http://www.dotd.la.gov>
- NHTSA'S Traffic Safety Marketing Tools:** <http://www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov>
- Louisiana's Strategic Highway Safety Plan:** <http://www.destinationzerodeaths.com/strategic>

**JOIN OUR COALITION! Contact Rudynah Capone at (985) 851-2900 or email [rudynah@scpcdc.org](mailto:rudynah@scpcdc.org).**

**SOUTH CENTRAL SAFE COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP c/o South Central Planning and Development Commission**

**5058 West Main Street, Houma, LA 70360 / PO Box 1870, Gray, LA 70359 [www.scpcdc.org](http://www.scpcdc.org)**

 **South Central Safe Community Partnership**  **[scpcdc\\_safe community](https://twitter.com/scpcdc_safe_community)**