



### Mark Your Calendar

**Click It Or Ticket  
National Mobilization**  
May 14—June 3, 2012

**Lifesavers Conference**  
June 14—16, 2012  
Orlando, FL

**National Association of  
Prosecutor Coordinators  
Summer Conference**  
July 9—12, 2012  
Deadwood, SD

**NDAAs Summer  
Conference**  
July 22—25, 2012  
Mystic, CT

**18th Annual DRE Section  
Training Conference on  
Drugs, Alcohol and  
Impaired Driving**  
August 16—18, 2012  
Seattle, WA

### Upcoming NDAA Courses

For a listing of all upcoming NDAA courses, please go to:  
[www.ndaa.org](http://www.ndaa.org)

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# Between the Lines

## National Sobriety Testing Resource Center and Drug Recognition Expert Data System

By Wilfrid K. Price\*

Impaired driving has long been identified as a significant traffic safety and public health concern. In recent decades, our understanding of impaired driving has increased and shifted from a simple traffic violation to a serious societal issue. Like many public safety issues, impaired driving is continuously changing, requiring rapid analysis of emerging trends to meet the challenges this subject presents. Increasing numbers of drivers and vehicles on our roadways mean a higher number of potentially impaired drivers behind the wheel. With this in mind, increased focus has been placed on drug impaired driving. Emerging trends that impact this problem include an aging population, increasing numbers of prescriptions being

issued, and rapidly shifting types of illicit drugs. This situation has required law enforcement, prosecutors, and toxicologists to adjust their approaches and tactics to address drug impaired driving.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has responded with a broad range of research, enforcement, and data collection tactics. The Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCDP) has identified data collection for drug impaired driving as a significant priority area of concern. To help meet the challenge, NHTSA funds and operates the National Sobriety Testing Resource Center and DRE Data System.

(Continued on Page 2)



**NATIONAL SOBRIETY TESTING RESOURCE CENTER**  
~AND~  
**DRUG RECOGNITION EXPERT DATA SYSTEM**

Welcome to the National Sobriety Testing Resource Center (NSTRC). The purpose of this site is to provide a comprehensive source of information regarding **standardized field sobriety testing**, training and certification for authorized and active law enforcement practitioners and instructors. The NSTRC also provides access to the SFST Training Management System, a voluntary, state oriented practitioner and trainer database. The NSTRC is provided by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of the US Department of Transportation as a resource and tool for United States law enforcement officers to address alcohol and drug impaired driving.

Authorized law enforcement personnel may request an access account for [NSTRC](#) or [DRE Tracking System](#). For additional information regarding the National Sobriety Training Resource Center program, contact Synergen Technologies Corporation (301-577-1034) at [help@sobrietytesting.org](mailto:help@sobrietytesting.org).

**Notice**  
This system contains confidential and privileged information that is intended only for use by individuals who are properly authorized to access this system. Any person who does not have authorization to access this system is hereby notified that any access, disclosure, dissemination, copying or distribution of the information contained herein is strictly prohibited. The content of this site is to be regarded as **LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE AND FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY**. Distribution of this information is restricted to law enforcement agencies. Any and all persons or organizations violating distribution restrictions will be prohibited from accessing this system.

\* Wilfrid K. Price is employed by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
In the Enforcement and Justice Services Division

This web-based system is available to certified law enforcement officers, highway safety personnel, and prosecutors to serve as a common point of information and communication among professionals charged with combating impaired driving.

In 2009, NHTSA contracted with Syneren Technologies to consolidate two existing information and data systems into a single point of contact and functionality. The resulting site [www.sobrietytesting.org](http://www.sobrietytesting.org), was launched in August of 2010 and has provided users with a reliable and secure site to obtain information and capture Drug Evaluation Classification program data resulting from field evaluations of drug impaired driving suspects.

At present, the DRE Data system contains records on more than 265,000 drug impaired driving evaluations from around the country over the past several years. As new DRE States come on line, the evaluators within the state typically begin the process of capturing data on each evaluation they conduct. These records are updated with the results of toxicology testing that is conducted on collected samples from suspected drug impaired drivers. The result is an extremely robust data set that can reveal trends at the local, State, and national levels.

The system also provides the individual DRE user with a rolling log function that captures critical work indicators for each evaluation conducted, the opinions rendered by the DRE, and results of toxicology screening that is conducted. These records can prove valuable when prosecuting drug impaired driving cases to demonstrate the law enforcement officer's experience and proficiency at arriving at informed opinions regarding drug impairment based on their training. One of the many benefits of the system is that the rolling log can graphically depict a DRE's work history and accuracy in forming opinions. This can be critical to establishing the credibility of the individual officer and the State's DRE program in prosecuting drug impaired driving cases.

The system was designed and is operated to collect drug impaired driving information, without collecting personal identifying information (PII) on suspects. As a result, there are no suspect names, dates of birth, or other identifiers in the system. The reason for this is to ensure compliance with established federal regulations, and follow guidance from NHTSA on the function of this particular data system. There is also a need to ensure fairness and confidentiality for all subjects, but particularly those situations where evaluations or toxicology testing reflects no drugs being located in a subject's body, or where a medical condition unrelated to drug-impairment may be present.

For the State Coordinator, the system provides added benefits of being able to rapidly and accurately track the proficiency and work of DRE's within their state. With just a few mouse clicks, a State Coordinator can determine the level of effort for individual DRE's, their accuracy rate, and determine if record keeping is being managed in a timely fashion.

While each State's statutes and practices vary, the quality of the law enforcement officer's investigation, background, and testimony can have a significant impact on individual cases and the perceptions of impaired driving in their community. This system can help support those efforts, and aid State and local entities in ensuring high quality work from DRE's. The imperative to ensure that impaired driving enforcement is fair, accurate, and credible cannot be overstated. The information captured in the DRE data system can help to establish and maintain this critical need.

DRE's by their nature are highly motivated, well trained, and committed law enforcement officers who have taken on additional responsibility to combat impaired driving. Their use of the national data system helps to build the credibility of the officer as well as the program and can aid in making effective cases in court.

## In Memory of Joel A. Bolton

Joel A. Bolton, Highway Safety Specialist with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), Enforcement and Justice Services Division, died March 18, 2012.

During his 25-year career with the Lake Charles, LA, Police Department, Joel served in its Patrol and Detective Divisions, and as Director of the Safe City Project which promoted training in Standardized Field Sobriety Testing (SFST). He was selected in 2006 to receive the J. Stannard Baker Award, sponsored by the International Association of Chiefs of Police, NHTSA and the Northwestern University's Center for Public Safety, for his career-long efforts to promote traffic safety programs within the City of Lake Charles and throughout the State of Louisiana. He also served in the NHTSA law enforcement leadership program during 1991 and 1992. Joel retired from Lake Charles in 2007 with the rank of Lieutenant.

The staff of the National Traffic Law Center wishes to express their deepest sympathies to Joel's wife and family for their loss.

### Contact Us

**National Traffic Law Center**  
44 Canal Center Plaza, Suite 110  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
703.549.9222  
Email: [trafficemail@ndaa.org](mailto:trafficemail@ndaa.org)

Joanne E. Thomka  
Program Director  
703.519.1645  
[jthomka@ndaa.org](mailto:jthomka@ndaa.org)

Mark M. Neil  
Senior Attorney  
703.519.1641  
[mneil@ndaa.org](mailto:mneil@ndaa.org)

Kristen K. Shea  
Senior Attorney  
703.519.1644  
[kshea@ndaa.org](mailto:kshea@ndaa.org)

## Technical Assistance

The National Traffic Law Center provides evidentiary and technical assistance on a number of topics in the traffic law realm, tracks national and state legislation, provides training programs on legal issues concerning impaired driving, and a number of other services. This includes an informational catalog on topics related to traffic safety, including expert witnesses, articles and studies, case briefs, case decisions and more. If you are in need of any assistance, please contact the National Traffic Law Center.

### Lifesavers Conference

June 14—16, 2012  
Orlando, FL

Mark your calendar now for the Lifesavers 30th National Conference Celebration in Orlando, Florida at the Walt Disney World Swan and Dolphin – where all conference activities will be under one roof!

Lifesavers is the premier national highway safety meeting in the United States dedicated to reducing the tragic toll of deaths and injuries on our nation's roadways. It provides a forum that delivers relevant and timely common-sense solutions to today's critical highway safety problems. The conference addresses a wide range of safety topics, from child passenger safety and occupant protection to roadway and vehicle safety and technology. It offers the latest information on advances in highway safety, highlights successful programs and draws attention to emerging safety issues.

For more information, go to [www.lifesaversconference.org](http://www.lifesaversconference.org)

### NDAA Efforts

NDAA's mission is "to be the voice of America's prosecutors and to support their efforts to protect the rights and safety of the people."

For more information on NDAA, its programs and efforts, go to [www.ndaa.org](http://www.ndaa.org)



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