

EXECUTIVE ORDER

01.01.2009.08

“Be a Driving Force for Safety” Program for State Employees

- WHEREAS, Annually, traffic crashes in Maryland are responsible for more than 550 deaths and more than 50,000 injuries;
- WHEREAS, Driving is the most hazardous thing that most Marylanders do on a daily basis; and the State, as an employer, values and desires to protect its employees and their families and friends from the preventable tragedies that traffic crashes impose;
- WHEREAS, More than 90 percent of fatal traffic crashes are the result of driver error, underscoring the fact that by raising awareness and changing behaviors, lives can be saved;
- WHEREAS, Maryland’s Choose Safety for Life campaign seeks to reduce the number and severity of traffic crashes through a coordinated and collaborative approach that addresses driver skill enhancement, education, awareness, and behavior for all drivers in the State;
- WHEREAS, It is in the best interests of the State of Maryland that employees adhere to safe driving practices both on and off the job to minimize State expenses associated with traffic crashes and to serve as role models for the citizens of Maryland; and
- WHEREAS, The “Be a Driving Force for Safety” Program for State employees will support Maryland’s Choose Safety for Life campaign by promoting safe driving education and driving skills enhancement.
- NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARTIN O’MALLEY, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, BY VIRTUE OF THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME BY THE CONSTITUTION AND THE LAWS OF MARYLAND, HEREBY PROCLAIM THE FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE ORDER, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY:

A. There is a “Be A Driving Force for Safety” Program for State employees.

B. Procedures.

(1) Each Secretary or Head of an Executive Branch agency shall identify and task an appropriate individual to implement the Program within the agency.

(2) Each Executive Branch agency shall:

(a) Encourage all State employees who drive fleet vehicles to take the “Driving Improvement Program,” an e-learning application on safe driving skills;

(b) Encourage all employees to comply with current seatbelt use laws;

(c) Participate in National Drive Safely Work Week activities each October and other educational opportunities throughout the year; and

(d) Support the Program with internal e-mails, poster placement, and other appropriate communication methods.

(3) The Department of Budget and Management shall, subject to applicable legal requirements, issue a hands-free cell use policy for drivers of State vehicles. The policy shall prohibit hand-held cell phone use while driving, except in cases of emergency. The policy shall not apply to law enforcement officers or operators of authorized emergency vehicles.

C. Agency Coordination.

(1) The State Fleet Safety Committee, in conjunction with the State Highway Administration, shall provide guidance to Executive Branch agencies on implementation of the Program.

(2) The State Highway Administration shall identify and provide appropriate relevant information and materials to the Committee for review and distribution to Executive Branch agencies in support of the Program.

(3) Each Executive Branch agency shall designate appropriate personnel: to coordinate with the State Fleet Safety Committee and the State Highway Administration regarding the implementation of the Program; and to support the distribution and communication of the information and materials described in Section C(2).

Given Under my Hand and the Great Seal of the State of Maryland, in the City of Annapolis, this 21st Day of May, 2009.

Martin O'Malley
Governor

ATTEST:

John P. McDonough
Secretary of State