



The CCPS All-Points Bulletin

October 2004

A Message from the Secretary

As the state's leaders in public safety, it is up to our department to set the example for others. One way we can do this is to make sure we are obeying, and educating others about, the state's "move over" law, N.C.G.S. 20-157(f). The law was passed following the death of Trooper Calvin Taylor, who was killed when a tractor trailer rammed the rear of his car as he had a violator pulled over on the side of I-40 in Haywood County. A second trooper, Anthony Cogdill, was killed in the same type of accident 19 months later. In the last two years, 56 troopers – and numerous other emergency responders – have been hit by drivers who either fell asleep or were just not paying attention.

The move over law requires motorists to reduce their speed and change lanes away from an emergency vehicle stopped on the side of a multi-lane road with its emergency lights flashing. On a two lane road, drivers are required to slow down until they are past the emergency vehicle. The Highway Patrol will be aggressively enforcing this law, and I encourage you to make your family and friends aware of it. The Highway Patrol's Traffic Safety Information Officers have educational materials to present to civic groups, driver's education classes, businesses and others if needed.

I can't stress enough how important it is for citizens to obey these laws and drive safely, so that we don't have further injuries to our law enforcement officers, and so that no more families have to face losing a loved one who was trying to do his or her job – protecting all of us. Thank you.

Bryan E. Beatty

From the Benefits and Safety Office

Everyone by now has heard about the shortage of the flu vaccine this year. While vaccinating our employees would have saved us some sick days and lost productivity, the fact that our department is mostly made up of healthy people means that the shots would not be the lifesaving tool they are for many. Those who are already weakened or ill, such as very young children (less than 6 years), people over 65 years old, and people with medical conditions that reduce their resistance to or tolerance of minor illness, depend on the flu vaccine annually to save their lives. They have first priority for the vaccine.

The State Health Plan has designed a clever plan for providing the vaccine to any employee or dependent on the Health Plan who is in one of the high-risk populations or who is a caregiver for young children. Complete and helpful information is available at www.bcbsnc.com. Click on "I'm a Member," then click on "State Comprehensive Health Plan."

Comings & Goings

Welcome to our new employees: **P.M. Davis**, **Donald Weaver**, and **E.C. Wheeler, Jr.**, BPS; **Cory Grier**, EM; **Richard Bone, II**, and **Freedom Huggins**, NCNG; and **Brenda Lapeyrolerie**, SHP.

Good luck to our recent retirees: **Karen Pleasants** and **Elaine Smith**, Fiscal; **Don Needham**, EM; Trp. **J.D. Ferree** and VEOs **G.L. Brown**, **W.R. Hall** and **C.D. Perkins**, SHP.

Division News

The **State Highway Patrol** will celebrate its 75th anniversary with an event at Dorton Arena on the State Fairgrounds on November 9th. The event will include historical displays, equipment displays and demonstrations. Refreshments will be provided. SHP employees, retirees and family members are invited to the event from 10:00 am until 3:00 pm. The general public is invited from 4:00 pm until 8:00 pm.

The North Carolina Wing of the **Civil Air Patrol** will hold its annual state-wide conference November 12-14 at the Brownstone Hotel in Raleigh. The purpose of the conference is for volunteer members of the Civil Air Patrol to learn about new training opportunities involving aerospace education, cadet programs, emergency services, homeland security, counter-drug programs and much more. A registration form, cost and additional information are available on the web at <http://www.ncwg.cap.gov/conference/>.

Congratulations!

ALE Agents **Rodney Beckom** and **Patrick Preslar**, District VI, Greensboro, received department awards from Sec. Beatty on October 22nd. Beckom received the department's Distinguished Service Award for the professionalism and courage he displayed on January 7, 2004, while assisting a seriously injured officer during an undercover drug operation. Beckom was also recognized for the dedication he exhibits to ensure the successful operation of Alcohol Law Enforcement programs. Preslar received the department's Meritorious Service Award in recognition of the innovation he exhibited in organizing and coordinating the Prom Project to provide high school students with safe, alcohol-free activities to attend.

Major **A.F. Rhew** and Captain **W.B. Williams** were promoted in a ceremony October 21 at Butner Public Safety.

The following employees have reached state government service milestones as of September 2004. Please congratulate these fellow CCPS employees on their achievements. 55 years: **Peggy Carson**; 25 years: **Michael T. James** and **Bronnie A. Jones, Jr.**

Future CCPS iForums

Employees: we want your input! You've had a chance to participate in the CCPS iForum and you can go on line at any time and read transcripts of the seven sessions that have been held so far. Please tell us who in the Department you would like to see as a guest on future iForums. The subject area is wide open on this internal communications tool with a goal of helping you, the employees, know what is happening in CCPS. Please email rhoffman@nccrimecontrol.org or call Renee with your guest suggestions at 919-733-5027.

Protecting Yourself from Identity Theft

Identity theft can leave you with a ruined credit history, and the time-consuming and complicated task of regaining financial health. Here are 12 tips for preventing identity theft.

1. Make sure your new checks arrive in the mail promptly. Better yet, pick them up at your bank.
2. Don't have your Social Security or driver's license number printed on your checks. The numbers, along with the other personal information on the check, will give the thief all the necessary facts to apply for a loan, credit card or bank account in your name.
3. When writing checks, don't leave blank spaces on the lines designating the payee and the amount. Write words close together, avoid abbreviations and draw lines to fill any gaps. Otherwise, a criminal can change what you've written.
4. When you're writing checks to pay on your credit card accounts, do not put the complete account number on the "For" line. Instead, just put the last four numbers. The credit card company knows the rest.
5. Do not put bills in your mailbox. Take the time to drop them at the post office or in a US Postal Service collection box.
6. Don't write your credit card number on a check to a merchant, even if the merchant asks for it.
7. Try to use your own pre-printed deposit slips instead of the ones in the bank lobby, so your deposit doesn't end up in someone else's account.
8. Don't throw away old papers, cancelled checks, bank statements, etc. Either shred or burn them. One of the easiest ways for a thief to steal your identity is by going through your trash.
9. Place the contents of your wallet on a photocopy machine, and copy both sides of each license, credit card, etc. Put the copy in a safe place at your home. If your wallet is stolen or lost, you will know what was in the wallet and all of the account numbers and phone numbers to call and cancel.
10. If your wallet is stolen, file a police report immediately in the jurisdiction where the crime happened. This proves to the credit providers that you were diligent and is the first step in an investigation. Then cancel the credit cards that were in the wallet.
11. Call the three national credit reporting bureaus and the Social Security Administration immediately to place a fraud alert on your name and SSN. The alert means that any company that checks your credit knows your information was stolen and they have to contact you by phone to authorize new credit. The numbers are
 - a. Equifax: 800-525-6285
 - b. Experian (formerly TRW): 888-397-3742
 - c. Trans Union: 800-680-7289
 - d. Social Security Administration Fraud Line: 800-269-0271
12. For more information, call the Federal Trade Commission hotline at 877-ID-THEFT (877-438-4338) or go to www.ftc.gov.