



MOBILIZATION REPORT

NEW JERSEY DIVISION OF HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY

OBEY THE SIGNS OR PAY THE FINES • JULY 2009

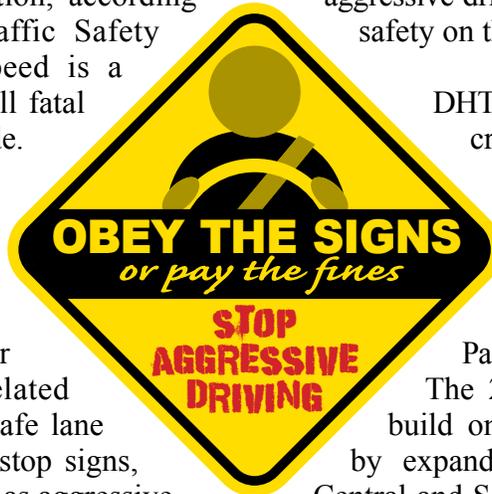
STATEWIDE SPEED AND AGGRESSIVE DRIVING CRACKDOWN

Speed-related crashes are a growing problem in New Jersey, having increased by 35% from 2002, according to New Jersey Department of Transportation traffic crash data. In 2008, there were 22,395 speed-related crashes, up from 14,624 in 2002. In addition, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), speed is a contributing factor in 30% of all fatal motor vehicle crashes nationwide.

Speed is also a key contributing factor in many aggressive driving-related incidences on local, state and interstate roadways. Speed coupled with one or more other motor vehicle-related offenses such as tailgating, unsafe lane changes, running red lights or stop signs, and improper passing is defined as aggressive driving by the New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety (DHTS) and local and state law enforcement agencies.

A recent statewide survey of driver attitudes and behaviors, conducted by Fairleigh Dickinson

University's PublicMind poll in partnership with DHTS, further underscores the problem. Eighty-four percent of New Jersey drivers admit to driving above the 65-mile per hour speed limit at least "once in awhile," while respondents cite aggressive driving as the "biggest threat to their safety on the road."



DHTS conducted a region-wide speed crackdown with its law enforcement partners in July, 2008. The campaign took place throughout the Division's seven-county Northern Region (Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Morris, Passaic, Sussex, and Warren Counties). The 2009 campaign was designed to build on the success of the 2008 effort by expanding the campaign into DHTS' Central and Southern regions. The goals of the 2009 *Obey the Signs or Pay the Fines* speed crackdown were to mobilize all police agencies in New Jersey in a concerted speed enforcement effort and to raise awareness both locally and statewide about the dangers of excessive speed and aggressive driving.

THE RESULTS

Two-hundred fifty police agencies participated in the campaign issuing 18,087 speeding summonses during the four-week campaign, up from 9,643 last year. In addition to speeding tickets, police officers also issued 7,591 seat belt and 468 child restraint citations, respectively, and made 1,372 DWI arrests.

The campaign garnered extensive media coverage both statewide and locally. A news release issued by DHTS was picked up by numerous television, radio and newspaper outlets. In addition, participating police agencies issued their own releases, generating many local news stories. This media component served to raise awareness about the campaign and support for the enforcement effort.

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Police Agency Participation by Year

2006	114 (4 counties)
2007	171 (7 counties)
2008	168 (7 counties)
2009	250 (statewide)

Citations Issued

Speed	18,087
Seat Belt	7,591
Child Restraint	468
DWI	1,372
Following Too Close	431
Unsafe Lane Change	991
Careless Driving	5,377
Disregard of Signal	3,348
Disregard of Sign	2,472
Improper Passing	1,723

Participation by Region

North	173 participants
Central	53 participants
South	19 participants
NJ State Police	5 Troop participants

Police Agencies Reporting 200 or More Speeding Citations

NJSP Troop E	984
NJSP Troop D	821
Hillside	814
NJSP Troop B	782
Essex County Sheriff	671
NJSP Troop A	620
NJSP Troop C	517
North Brunswick	491
North Bergen	459
Bergen County	450
Palisades Interstate Parkway	419
Hudson County Sheriff	331
Elizabeth	281
Hanover Twp.	232
Linden	225

OBEY THE SIGNS
or pay the fines

For more information about the 2009 *Obey the Signs or Pay the Fines* speed and aggressive driving crackdown, including a detailed breakdown of citations by participating police agencies, contact Robert Gaydosh at (609) 633-9022 or robert.gaydosh@lps.state.nj.us



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