

# CASE Newsletter

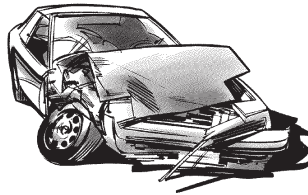
California Association for Safety Education Volume XXI, Number 4 - Dec. 2011

## STATE RENEWS FOCUS ON TEEN CRASHES

By Jerry Gaines, Past President – CASE

On November 3, 2011, the California State Highway Patrol, along with the California Office of Traffic Safety and the California Department of Motor Vehicles, reconvened the Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) Challenge Area 6 planning team in Sacramento to review and update earlier actions taken to address their charge: “Reduce Teen Driver Fatalities.” Dr. Bill Cole, Jerry Gaines, and Shannon Woods represent CASE on this planning team. Jerry Gaines represented CASE at this meeting by teleconference.

The SHSP team has now added various new members from the traffic safety education community, drawing from emergency responders, engineers, enforcement, and education. Attention was given at the meeting to address yet to be completed tasks related to adding freeway testing to the DMV drive test, and establishing an awards system within the DMV that could encourage insurance company discounts for new novice drivers who complete their first six months without any violations or crash experiences. Budget issues have withheld further serious study on these SHSP tasks.



The SHSP team made time during a portion of their meeting to permit Adept Driver to present its most up-to-date “Teen Smart” program to those in attendance. Details can be obtained on their website, [www.adeptdriver.com](http://www.adeptdriver.com), which include computer-based driving tutorials, parent-teen activities, and a certification test. They believe that delivering science-based training significantly reduces auto collisions.

During the meeting, Mark Talan of OTS was asked by CASE to initiate a statewide data base of traffic safety stakeholders that could be used to begin a private-public partnership network to seek future strategies on reducing teen crashes. Now that CASE has revised its Constitution to incorporate traffic safety educators from the public and private sectors, this data base may be useful in forming new partnerships. The SHSP task force expressed interest in OTS launching this effort to find ways for traffic safety advocates to learn more about efforts being undertaken to address the on-going issue of teen crashes. What may be learned from this data base is identification of best practices various programs have developed that may be effective in educating the new novice teen driver. Use of e-mail addresses and websites is an inexpensive way to network and start renewed focus on teen crashes.

## Booster Seats Will be Required Until Age 8

As of January 1, 2012, children will be required to ride in a safety seat or booster, in the back seat, up to age 8. California will join 30 other states that require booster use up to age 8. Most kids need to ride in a booster seat from about age 4 until age 10-12.

Stephanie Tombrello, Executive Director of SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A., points out that children without boosters are 45% more likely to be injured in a crash and that California law already requires all vehicle occupants, regardless of age, to be properly buckled up. “SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A. recommends that parents use the 5-Step Test ([www.carseat.org/Boosters/630.htm](http://www.carseat.org/Boosters/630.htm)) to find out if a child needs a booster. Be sure to check how the belt fits in every car the child rides in. We tested 3500 children up to age 13 and found that half of ten-year-olds and one quarter of twelve-year-olds need a booster seat for their safety belts to fit properly.” SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A. also recommends that children ride in the back seat, which is 40% safer than the front, until they are old enough to learn to drive.

The fine for failing to properly secure a child under 16 in a safety seat, booster, or safety belt is at least \$469. The parent, if present, gets the ticket; otherwise, the driver is cited. A portion of the fine money goes to the local health department to provide community education and safety seats to low-income families.

Sources: *Santa Barbara Independent*; California Office of Traffic Safety; SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A.

## Cell Phone Use at Red Light Ruled Illegal

California drivers who use their handheld cell phones while stopped at a red light can be ticketed by police, according to a state appeals court decision issued November 14.

Using a handheld cell phone while driving is a violation of a California law passed in 2007. According to the First District Court of Appeal in San Francisco, the definition of “driving” includes what’s called “fleeting pauses” -- such as sitting in traffic or at a red light.

The court said that excluding such stops from the definition of driving is contrary to the cell phone ban, and “would likely result in significant and numerous public safety hazards.”

The court ruled on a case brought by a Contra Costa County driver who appealed after receiving a \$103 ticket on Dec. 28, 2009. He was stopped at a red light in Richmond and received a ticket for using his phone, which he admitted doing.

## Board Approves Changes to Constitution

The proposed amendments to the CASE Constitution published in the September *Newsletter* were approved unanimously by the Board of Directors at the October 25 Board meeting. The revisions made changes in membership eligibility, eliminated the position of 2nd Vice President, modified board expense procedures, and updated goals for CASE,

## 2012 CASE Conference

The 60th Annual CASE Conference will be a one-day event held at the Ontario Airport Sheraton Hotel in Ontario, Saturday March 17, 2012, from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. The hotel is located at 429 N. Vineyard Avenue. A free airport shuttle is available.

The conference registration fee will be \$125 for CASE members and \$165 for non-members. A registration form is provided below. The CASE conference room rate is \$92. The hotel reservations number is (866) 716-8122 (local number: (909) 429-1111).

Details of the conference program will be included in future issues of this newsletter and on the CASE website at [www.casewebsite.org](http://www.casewebsite.org) as they become available. A conference registration form is also available on the website.

## Nominations Requested for CASE Spring Election

Members of CASE interested in elective office for the term beginning July 1, 2012 and ending June 30, 2014, should submit the following information to the Nominations and Elections Committee:

- A statement of qualifications
- A resume of professional service and activity in the Association

**Nominations must be received by January 7, 2012** for the offices of President-Elect, First Vice-President, Northern Region Representative, and Southern Region Representative. Please send the information to:

CASE Nominations Committee  
25 Shelbourne Place  
San Mateo, CA 94402

## Texting & Driving Video and Resource Materials

AT&T has produced a new 10-minute documentary titled "The Last Text," featuring stories of real individuals whose lives have been adversely affected by texting behind the wheel.

To view the video, visit [www.att.com/txtnaganwait](http://www.att.com/txtnaganwait). Additional resources and materials are available at this site as part of AT&T's "It Can Wait" campaign.

## CASE Newsletter

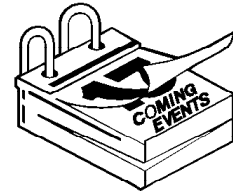
Published by the California Association for Safety Education

### Richard Mikulik, Editor

25 Shelbourne Place  
San Mateo, CA 94402

E-mail: [casemembership@sbcglobal.net](mailto:casemembership@sbcglobal.net)

CASE Web Site: [www.casewebsite.org](http://www.casewebsite.org)



## CASE Calendar

**March 17, 2012** - 60th Annual CASE Conference, Ontario Airport Sheraton Hotel, Ontario, CA. Hotel reservations: (866) 716-8122

**May 2012** - National Youth Traffic Safety Month. Contact: [www.noys.org](http://www.noys.org)

**July 13-15, 2012** - NSSP Annual Teen Leadership Conference, Radisson Paper Valley Hotel, Appleton, Wisconsin. Contact: [www.adtsea.org](http://www.adtsea.org)

**July 15-18, 2012** - ADTSEA Conference, Radisson Paper Valley Hotel, Appleton, Wisconsin. Contact: [www.adtsea.org](http://www.adtsea.org)

## 2012 CASE Conference Registration Form

**Registration must be received no later than February 25, 2012**

Mail check to: CASE Conference, 25 Shelbourne Place, San Mateo, CA 94402

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ School District/Business \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Phone (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration Fee Enclosed:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$125 CASE members, \$165 non-members\*) if received by February 25, 2012

**School District Purchase Orders not accepted** (if your school district is paying for registration, a district check must be sent with this registration form attached).

\* \$165 fee includes one-year CASE membership