



# LIFESAVERS 2010

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## State Task Force Solutions to Drunk Driving

Moderator

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Speakers:

Art Brown – MADD, Salt Lake County

UTAH

Liza Aguila-Lemaster – Highway Safety Office

MARYLAND

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FLORIDA

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## Background

- 1980-1984: 42 States Establish Impaired Driving Task Forces
- Between 1982 and 1997, the rate of drunk driving in fatal crashes decreases 43% (from 35% to 20%)
- January 2006: 16 States had active statewide Impaired Driving Task Forces
- Between 1997 and 2008, the rate of drunk driving in fatal crashes has remained flat at 20% (drivers in fatal crashes with BACs >= .08)
- NHTSA 2003 *Initiatives to Address Impaired Driving* recommended each State establish Task Forces

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### **Impaired Driving Task Forces**

- Focus public attention on impaired driving problem in the State.
- Identify obstacles currently impeding effective impaired driving countermeasures.
- Evaluate and recommend improvements to the DWI system.
- Close loopholes in legislation, enforcement, prosecution and adjudication procedures.

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### **Impaired Driving Task Forces**

#### **Bring Key Stakeholders Together:**

- Share information
- Address DWI issues
- Explore options
- Discuss potentially controversial issues before action is taken
- Provide a calm, safe place to express ideas
- Create network of communication and cooperation

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### **Guidelines for Establishing Task Forces**

- Define objectives
- Establish the focus
- Develop a Charter
- Define Membership (consider inviting all stakeholders)
- Establish rules on voting
- Establish timeframe
- Establish funding and reimbursement
- Select a Chair
- Appoint a Secretary
- Track recommendations

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## Types of Task Forces

- Legislative (e.g. Utah, Virginia)
- DWI System (e.g. Oregon, Florida)
- Enforcement (e.g. North Carolina, New Mexico)
  
- Ad Hoc (e.g. short term; 1-2 specific goals)
- Ongoing (e.g. continuous, contemporary, examine all aspects)

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## Task Force Nomenclatures

- Florida: Technical Advisory Committee on DUI Enforcement & Prosecution
- Illinois: Governor's Alcohol Abuse Task Force
- Indiana: Council on Impaired and Dangerous Driving
- Kentucky: Impaired Driving Task Team
- Maryland: Task Force to Combat Driving Under the Influence of Drugs and Alcohol; Impaired Driving Coalition
- Minnesota: Minnesota DUI Task Force
- Nevada: Nevada Impaired Driving Advisory Council
- New Mexico: Leadership Committee on DUI
- Oregon: Governor's Advisory Committee on DUII
- South Carolina: South Carolina Impaired Driving Prevention Council
- Utah: DUI Committee of the Utah Substance Abuse and Anti-Violence Coordinating Council
- Wyoming: Governor's Council on Impaired Driving

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## Task Force Recommendations

- Legislation:
  - New laws (e.g. more severe sanctions for high BAC)
  - Closing loopholes in existing laws (Per Se applies to BAC at time of the test)
  - Increasing the use of Alcohol Ignition Interlocks
- Enforcement:
  - Reducing the paperwork for police during the DUI arrest process
- Data Systems:
  - Tracking DWI offenders from arrest to final disposition

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