



U.S. Department of Transportation
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

www.nhtsa.gov

Volume 13, No. 2

February 2007

FEATURE

NHTSA Proposes Upgrades to NCAP Program

How can you tell which vehicle is the safest to buy? It all may depend on what criteria you're looking at.

As automakers rolled out their flashy new vehicles at the recent North American International Auto Show in Detroit, Secretary of Transportation Mary Peters announced that the Government's system for rating passenger vehicles should be upgraded to give consumers more useful information to help them make better informed decisions when they're buying cars, trucks, or SUVs.

Under the improved five-star rating program, known as the New Car Assessment Program (NCAP), vehicles will be subjected to more stringent rollover, frontal and

side crash testing. The new proposal could include, for the first time, ratings for crash avoidance technologies like the electronic stability control, adaptive cruise control, and lane departure warning systems.

NHTSA Administrator Nicole Nason, also in attendance, is considering adding a grading system that would supplement star ratings. It would work something like this. In addition to the star ratings, cars would receive an "A" under additional technologies because the manufacturers willingly included some of these advanced technologies.

For nearly 30 years NCAP has been the catalyst for encouraging major safety improvements to new car design. Consumer demand has driven more manufacturers

to design passenger vehicles that are safer than ever before. But even with those high standards more than 40,000 people still lose their lives in car crashes on America's roads each year.

Improving the NCAP program raises the safety bar higher and helps consumers make better choices, which could ultimately help to save lives.

For further information on the current NCAP program please go to www.safercar.gov. ★



Statement From Our Administrator, Nicole Nason, Regarding *Consumer Reports'* Withdrawal of Its Infant Car Seat Test Report

“*Consumer Reports* was right to withdraw its infant car seat test report and I appreciate that they have taken this corrective action. We are always eager to work with *Consumer Reports* and other organizations to improve child safety and ensure that consumers continue to have access to accurate and credible data. I was troubled by the report because it frightened parents and could have discouraged them from using car seats. It is absolutely essential for every parent to understand that the safest place in an automobile for an infant is in a car seat.



Simply put, car seats are the best defense for a child in a crash.

“Our initial review of the *Consumer Reports* testing procedures showed a sig-

nificant error in the manner in which it conducted and reported on its side-impact tests. The organization's data shows its side-impact tests were actually conducted under conditions that would represent being struck in excess of 70 mph, twice as fast as the group claimed. When NHTSA tested the same child seats in conditions representing the 38.5 mph conditions claimed by *Consumer Reports*, the seats stayed in their bases as they should, instead of failing dramatically.”

Continued on page 2

FEATURE

continued from page 1

- Video footage of NHTSA's side-impact tests can be found at <http://nhtsa.gov/portal/site/nhtsa/menuitem.7908a78a98232a8d304a4c4446108a0c> (Windows Media format).
- A high-resolution version in MP2 format of the Compass safety seat can be downloaded from NHTSA's FTP server at ftp://ftp.nhtsa.dot.gov/NewsMedia/NHTSA_Front_View_Hi_Res.mpg
- A high-resolution version in MP2 format of the Evenflo Discovery safety seat can be downloaded from NHTSA's FTP server at ftp://ftp.nhtsa.dot.gov/NewsMedia/Evenflo-FroDVD_NTSC_Lg.mpg ★

NHTSA Crash Test Footage of Infant Car Seats Now Available Online

NHTSA released its side-impact crash test footage for 11 of the same infant car seats Consumer Reports tested earlier this month. Each car seat was tested in conditions representing the 38 mph conditions claimed by Consumer Reports. The seats are the Baby Trend-Flex-Loc; Britax Companion; Chicco KeyFit; Combi Centre ST; Compass 1410; Evenflo Embrace; Evenflo Discovery; Graco SafeSeat; Graco SnugRide with EPS; Peg Perego Primo Viaggio SIP, and Safety 1st Designer.

NHTSA also has provided a video simulating what would happen to an unrestrained infant being held in the arms of a parent during a crash.

To view the crash test video, visit the multimedia section of NHTSA's Web site by clicking on the following link:

<http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/portal/site/nhtsa/menuitem.7908a78a98232a8d304a4c4446108a0c/?jsessionid=Fev5HZkcmTIPxLrwV0REQAOnlPF2l1OxscQUDgSZNuW88JpuMjAG!2136992754>

YOUR CO-WORKER

Poetry in Motion

By Pat Swift-Oladeinde

Each and every syllable is enunciated and accentuated with exact diction. The cadence of the words is crisp, sharp, and direct. As you listen to the crescendos and the decrescendos of her voice, you can't help but feel every single, solid word, personally.

To say Anita Fennell has a way with words is an understatement. The administrative assistant in the Office of Data Acquisition at NHTSA's headquarters has been writing and reciting poetry in her spare time for quite a while.

While Fennell was in high school, her English teacher, Doris Haley, sister-in-law of acclaimed author Alex Haley, encouraged her to continue writing after seeing a poem Fennell had written.

"One day in class I wrote this poem and Mrs. Haley loved it," she said. "She said I should continue to do this because I was good at it. Ever since then I've been writing."

Poetry comes easily to Fennell. She credits her dad for much of her success. "My

dad used to always say, 'Just go sit out on the porch,' and so my first poem was called 'Sitting Here,'" she said. "I scribbled it down on a brown paper bag."

Fennell's works are based on real-life situations. "I write about church, family, friends, holidays, special occasions, or anything that's happening," she said. "Writing poetry gives me the opportunity to tell a story, but the best part about it is that you get to feel the joy from people and put a smile on someone's face. It's real special to them and it's original. You don't have to buy a card to try and compete with the companies."

Speaking of competition, Fennell was once offered a job with Hallmark cards shortly after graduating from high school. Because the company's policy required employees to be located on site, she didn't want to move to Kansas and be



away from her ailing father.

Still, Fennell has not been deterred. She is an accomplished author and has written more than 300 poems. In addition, she has written

three books and has received accolades from around the world. As a member of the International Poetry Society, Fennell's work has been quoted and displayed in many forums and countries, including in England and Italy.

Poetry Ambassador of the Month was a great achievement for Fennell, but her two most prized awards were a medalion and a trophy she received for writing a poem titled "Tribute." "This was a poem about my dad," she said. "It meant a lot."

Each year, many people eagerly wait to hear Fennell's pitch reach its peaks and lows

Continued on page 3

YOUR CO-WORKER

continued from page 2

as she recites a poem at the annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. program. The audience is as mesmerized and captivated by her message as they are of the delivery.

“The thing I appreciate about my job here at NHTSA is that it has allowed me to participate in Black History Month and share my poems with many modes in DOT

and Blacks in Government. It has also helped me with my writing skills.”

For now, Fennell continues to write and recite her poetry. There is no doubt that she has made an indelible impression on those who have heard her. As she puts it, “Poetry has been a part of my life, and always will be.” ★

“DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING”

*Dr. Martin Luther King had a dream and his Noble Peace came as no surprise,
He spoke to the Nation in different places while he kept his eyes on the prize,*

*So Stevie wondered as he talked to congress and he helped pave the way,
for Dr. King's birthday to be a national holiday,*

*A day on not a day off to accomplish all our dreams,
now here is my definition of a famous king,*

*A strong, patient, christian man who moved a tenacious mountain,
so we all could get a drink from life's public water fountain,*

*Then one day in nineteen fifty five there came a change of heart,
too tired to move to the back of the bus, up front sat rosa parks,*

*Her arrest started the boycott that kept our hope and faith alive,
that our race was strong enough, if given the freedom to survive,*

*Dr. King fought for a fair chance for all walks of life,
including his four little children and coretta scott his wife,*

*A humble preacher who told his congregation nothing but the truth,
about a world desegregated and i am the living proof,*

*Martin proved that blacks were treated unfair and he felt that this was wrong,
you see to me he was a king although he had no throne,*

*It was a sad day on april 4th, in nineteen sixty eight,
fires burned as the nation mourned when they heard of Dr. King's fate,*

*On that day we lost a son, a husband, a father, a brother, a friend and a teacher,
a life change seeker, a servant of god and a civil rights speaker,*

*This was a price that with his life Dr. King chose to pay,
for all americans to live as free as we do today,*

*You know another king's in heaven now, an angel has got his wings,
a nightmare turned into a dream, thanks to dr. Martin Luther King.*

Anita L. Fennell
January 12, 2006

IN THE NEWS



Conversion to the Electronic Official Personnel Folder (eOPF)

The Department of Transportation is embarking on an important new initiative to provide you with easier and faster access to your personnel records. This initiative, known as Electronic Official Personnel Folder (OPF) will replace the current hardcopy OPF with an automated file. The eOPF will be available to you online from work or home virtually “24/7.”

Every active employee has an OPF. An OPF file contains records that cover your entire Federal employment history. Your human resources office is required to maintain this file.

As the OPF is common to all agencies, and integral to all agency personnel operations, there is a strong interest in the Human Resources community throughout the Federal Government to find more efficient and effective ways to manage the data that comprises the folder. For this reason, we are working with the Office of Personnel Management to bring you an eOPF. The eOPF allows each employee to have a secure and accessible electronic personnel folder available online. Some of the benefits of having an eOPF include:

- Employees can view (and/or print) their official personnel records online, to check or verify the accuracy of their information.
- Automatic e-mail notifications are sent when documents are added to employees' files.
- Greater accuracy and streamlined electronic records transfer between Federal agencies.

The DOT implementation of the eOPF is divided into two phases. Phase 1 began in Fiscal Year 2006 for FAA employees in the Western Pacific, Alaska, and Northwest

Continued on page 4

IN THE NEWS

continued from page 3

Mountain regions. This phase included the migration of the current electronic record (Documetrix) to the eOPF environment and the backfile conversion of the paper official personnel folders. Phase 2 began in December 2006 and is scheduled to conclude by the end of May 2007.

Your file will be out of circulation for several weeks while it is scanned as part of the conversion process. Once the scanning and quality checks are complete, you

will be notified that your file is available online and you will be provided with instructions to access the file. Please rest assured that the scanning facility meets the Department's requirements for physical and data security. Your personnel records will be kept in strict confidence throughout the conversion process.

Staff members from the various DOT Human Resources Offices are actively involved in this initiative. It is critical that all

employees be aware of their responsibility for maintaining accurate personnel information. Please visit the DOT eOPF home page at <http://dothr.ost.dot.gov/hrprograms/Automation/eOPF/eopf.html> for more information and answers to the most frequently asked questions. You may also contact your Operating Administration's eOPF representative, below, for more information.

Thank you for your cooperation and support of this important initiative.

OFFICIAL PERSONNEL FILE (OPF) REPRESENTATIVES

Operating Administration	Point of Contact	Phone Number
FAA	Latisha Ferguson	202-267-3190
FHWA	Arabella Wright	202-366-1207
FMCSA	Yolanda Knights	202-366-0227
FRA	Linda Maynard	202-493-6113
FTA	Linda Thomas	202-366-6737
MARAD	Martin Lis	202-366-5116
NHTSA	LuAnn Ritchey	202-366-2617
OIG	Joanne Pittman	202-366-6239
OST (including WCF, S&E and RITA HQ)	Vanessa Usual	202-366-0391
PHMSA	Ruby Thompson	202-366-4733
RITA – Volpe	Elaine Lyte	617-494-2555
SLSDC	Jill Hamilton	315-764-3237
STB	Cynthia McClam	202-565-1691

NPO-100 Upcoming Publications and Products That Will Be Publicly Available

Revision to 2005 Annual Assessment of Motor Vehicle Traffic Fatalities and Injuries. NCSA has updated the 2005 Annual Assessment, *Motor Vehicle Traffic Fatality Counts and Estimates of People Injured for 2005*, to include updated 2005 and 2004 Vehicle Miles of Travel data recently published by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Based on these latest VMT data, the motor vehicle crash fatality rate for 2005 now stands at 1.45 fatalities per 100 million VMT, a slight increase over the revised rate of 1.44 for 2004. The fatality rate in alcohol-related crashes

declined slightly—from 0.57 fatalities per 100 Million VMT in 2004 to 0.56 in 2005. The revised Annual Assessment also now includes 2005 fatality rates by vehicle type. The full 2005 Annual Assessment can be accessed by clicking on the following link: <http://www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/pdf/nrd-30/NCSA/PPT/2006/810639/810639.htm>

NCSA Quick Facts. *NCSA Quick Facts 2005 (December 2006)* has been updated to reflect the revised VMT and is available on Webster. The direct link is: <http://webster/Nhtsa/admin/PolicyOperations/NCSA/docs/QuickfactsDecember2006.pdf>

Employee Financial Reporting

Under the terms of the financial reporting system, NHTSA designates employees who are required to file a Confidential Financial Disclosure Report (OGE 450 Form). The agency makes this decision based on the duties and responsibilities of the employees in order to avoid their involvement in any real or apparent conflicts of interest. All employees at or above the GS-12 level (except for clerical staff) and all employees who serve as Contracting Officer's Technical Representatives or otherwise participate in the

Continued on page 7

IN THE NEWS

NHTSA's Food Reigns Supreme... *Again!*

For the third consecutive year, 2004, 2005 and now 2006, NHTSA's public affairs office has won the annual holiday cook-off competition hosted by the Office of the Secretary of Transportation (OST). OST chose eggnog as its secret ingredient and tasked each mode to prepare a dish containing the special ingredient. Foods ranged from muffins, cookies, and bread mixtures, to vegetable and omelet soufflés. NHTSA's dish, an eggnog cheese cake titled, "Eggnog Data Recorder" equipped with a disclaimer, placed first, followed by a distant second, Federal Motor

Winning recipe:

Eggnog Data Recorder

Crust

- 1 1/2 c. graham cracker crumbs
- 3 tbsp. melted butter
- 2 tbsp. sugar

Crust: Butter 9 inch spring form pan and pat crumb mixture over bottom and up 1 inch of sides. Chill for approximately 15-20 minutes. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Filling

- 2 (8 oz.) pkgs. cream cheese
- 1 c. eggnog
- 2 tsp. vanilla
- 1 c. sugar
- 3 eggs
- 1 tbsp. amaretto or rum or brandy

Filling: Beat cheese until very smooth. Add eggnog gradually beating constantly. Add sugar and vanilla. Mix well. Add eggs one at a time, blending well after each addition. Do not over beat.

Stir in rum. Pour into crust and sprinkle with nutmeg. Bake until top of cake is

dry to touch 45-50 minutes. Cool at room temperature for 1 hour. Loosen sides with spatula. Chill several hours before serving. Depending how you cut, should serve 8-10.

Sauce:

- 1 stick of unsalted butter
- 1 c. of golden raisins (let stand in warm water for 15 to 20 minutes)
- 1 jigger of amaretto or rum or brandy or
- 1 tsp of nutmeg
- 1 tsp of honey
- 2 tbsp. of caramel
- 1 c. of eggnog
- 1/2 c. of sugar

Put plumped raisins in food processor or blender and mince. Remove and put in sauce pan. Add other ingredients and cook on low heat, stirring frequently (5 min). Remove and pour over eggnog cheesecake. Add a dollop of cool whip.



TRAINING

NHTSA's Office of Human Resources (NHTSA/OHR) Offering New Training Opportunities:

Speak with Confidence and Clarity (1 day)

Date: February 1, 2007
Time & Location: 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.,
Nassif Bldg. 3328

This dynamic, interactive, skill-building seminar eliminates the fear of public speaking. Participants get a lot of information and speaking tips to apply to delivering presentations large or small. In just one day, participants learn powerful techniques to enable them to deliver more effective, professional, and confident presentations. **Target Audience:** Open to all.

Project Management Principles (3 days)

Date: February 6-8, 2007
Time & Location: 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.,
Nassif Bldg. 6200-6204

This comprehensive foundation course focuses on the principles across the breadth of A Guide to the Project Management Body of Knowledge (PMBOK Guide), teaching you the knowledge, tools, techniques, and best practices to successfully manage a project from initiation to final closeout. Fulfill the goals of your project, organization, and customers while balancing the competing demands of time, cost, scope, and quality. **Target Audience:** Open to all.

Cultural Diversity (EAP) (1 hour) (T.I.P.S.)

Date: February 13, 2007
Time & Location: 10 a.m. – 11 p.m.,
Nassif Bldg. 6200-6204

We all bring our particular cultural experience and background to the workplace. Our cultural experiences may include a different language or dialect, ways of dressing or eating, patterns of interaction with others, socioeconomic class, race,

religion, or sexual orientation. Participants examine cultural diversity and similarities and develop methods for acceptance and appreciation of differences. **Target Audience:** Open to all.

Microsoft Project 2003 Introduction (2 days)

Date: February 14-15, 2007
Time & Location: 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.,
Nassif Bldg. P2-0333

This comprehensive course is designed to provide participants with the skills necessary to use most of the fundamental features in Microsoft Project 2003 as a tool to assist them in managing projects. Topics cover the critical skills to create and modify a project plan file that contains tasks, resources, and resources assignments. **Target Audience:** Open to all.

Interest-Based Problem Solving (1 day)

Date: February 21, 2007
Time & Location: 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.,
Nassif Bldg. 6200-6204

The Interest-Based Problem Solving course gives participants an understanding of the techniques, tactics, and strategies needed to bring polarized (or potentially polarized) groups together to analyze, problem-solve, build consensus, and find common ground around organizational conflicts, reorganizations, labor/management negotiations, planning teams, and task forces. The course uses lectures and role-play exercises to familiarize participants with the process. At the end of the course, students understand the theory and stages of the model so they can participate in an interest-based problem solving session. **Target Audience:** Anyone interested in learning how to use an interest-based problem solving model.

Coaching Clinic *Day 1 (2 days)

- Managers, Supervisors, and Team Leaders
(NPO and NVS) only. -
* Seating is limited. Early enrollment is encouraged.

Date: February 22, 2007
Time & Location: 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.,
Nassif Bldg. 6200-6204

The Coaching Clinic effectively develops advanced skills necessary for transformational management. During the class participants experience first-hand, cutting-edge coaching technology; discover how to inspire others to believe in their own success; sharpen their focus and make radical shifts to achieve extraordinary results; recognize how and when to ask the questions to discover others' deepest values and hidden talents; discover their personal coaching styles using an inventory that positions them and their employees for rapid development; and make significant advances in their personal and professional relationships with others. **Target Audience:** This workshop is open to NPO and NVS Managers, Supervisors and Team Leaders only.

Teaming With Your Manager (1 day)

Date: February 28, 2007
Time & Location: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.,
Nassif Bldg. 6200-6204

This workshop explores specific strategies employees can use to enhance their value to their managers and strengthen their partnerships. Participants explore their own perceptions about their managers' priorities and identify techniques to learn about those preferences when returning to the office. Opportunities will examine effective communication and feedback techniques. The session concludes by reviewing the importance of providing solutions to issues rather than simply highlighting problems. **Target Audience:** Open to all.

REGISTRATION: Employees who want to register for these classes should contact their supervisors. An approved training request, Form HS-77, is required **before** confirmation. Nominations will be confirmed as soon as possible. Contractors are not eligible to attend these courses. Questions about this notice may be directed to Ivonne Rodriguez at x62605 or Nadra Milan-Dunbar, NHTSA Training Coordinator, at x62613. The HS-77 form can be downloaded from our **NEW** NHTSA Training Web page at: <http://webster/Nhtsa/admin/PolicyOperations/Administration/HR/training/index.htm> under Training Forms.

DISABILITY IDENTIFICATION: If you have a disability and require special accommodations, please notify NHTSA OHR Training with your request no later than 72 hours prior to each event.

NHTSA Training – “Empowering Employees for Excellence”

INS AND OUTS

Ins

Organization	Name	Position	Date
NPO-250	Davis, Cynthia	Secretary	12/10/2006
NCC-113	Kim, Jin H.	Attorney/Advisor	12/10/2006
NPO-430	Limon, Gustavo A.	Information Technology Specialist	12/10/2006

Outs

Organization	Name	Position	Date
NVS-312	Dunn, Ashley L.	Mechanical Engineer	12/01/2006
NVS-310	Moorman, Stephen L.	General Engineer	12/31/2006
NVS-113	Mouchahoir, George E.	Supv. Safety Standards Engineer	12/31/2006
NTI-310	Raymond, Neill P.	Safety Specialist	12/31/2006
NPO-012	Brown, Essex W., III	Human Resources Officer	12/23/2006



Latest Information, Updates and Features on Our Site

- NHTSA's 2008 Budget in Brief is Released
- Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) Program Information
- The New 2007 Car Assessment Program Suggested Approaches for Future Program Enhancements
- DOT Releases 2005 State Data on Alcohol-Related Fatalities
- 2005 State-by-State Alcohol-Related Fatalities (.pdf) <http://www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/pdf/nrd-30/NCSA/RNotes/2006/810686.pdf>
- Vehicle Backover Avoidance Technology Study
- STARS ON CARS: Details of the Final Rule
- NHTSA is currently conducting a national telephone survey on traffic safety issues. Please participate.

Latest News

- Statement From National Highway Traffic Safety Administrator Nicole Nason Regarding *Consumer Reports'* Withdrawal of Its Infant Car Seat Test Report (1/18/07)
- U.S. Secretary of Transportation Mary E. Peters Announces Plans to Improve Vehicle Crash Tests and Five Star Rating Program (1/9/07)
- LATCH Child Safety Seat System Confusing Says NHTSA Study (12/22/06)
- U.S. DOT Announces 2006 Seat Belt & Motorcycle Helmet Use Statistics (11/28/06)
- National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Administrator Calls for a Collaborative Effort to Solve the Tragic Issue of Motor Vehicle Backovers (11/13/06)
- Consumer Alert: Britax Child Safety, Inc. to Conduct Safety Recall for "Companion" Child Safety Seats (10/5/06)

To download these and other stories please go to www.NHTSA.dot.gov

IN THE NEWS

continued from page 7

procurement process, regardless of grade, must file an OGE 450 Form. SES employees are exempt from filing an OGE 450 Form, but are subject to other financial disclosure requirements. Go to <http://sharepoint.nhtsa.dot.gov/webster/NHTSABroadcast/NHTSA%20Daily%20Communicator/450disclosure.mht> for more information.



NHTSA Now is an official publication of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Office of Communications and Consumer Information.

Patricia Oladeinde, Editor

If you would like to submit articles or photographs, please email them to patricia.oladeinde@dot.gov or mail them to:

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