There is an ongoing problem that is threatening the lives of many law enforcement officers. Law enforcement has always been an occupation that is known for having occupational hazards. Whether injuries arise from assaults, traffic crashes, or shootings, officers are constantly aware of potential ways they may be injured. The problem, however, is when an officer is doing their job on the side of the road and they are injured by a motorist who fails to obey Scott’s Law.

Scott’s Law was named after Lieutenant Scott Gillen of the Chicago Fire Department who was struck and killed by an intoxicated driver while assisting at a crash. This law mandates that upon approaching any police or other emergency vehicle stopped along the roadway, when the emergency vehicle is giving a signal by displaying flashing lights, a person who drives an approaching vehicle must: (1) proceed with caution, (2) change lanes if possible, and (3) reduce speed.

This law’s title is unique to Illinois but the general concept exists throughout the country. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, all 50 states have move over laws. These laws were enacted because of emergency responders who were fatally struck by motorists. It is estimated that on average, two emergency responders per day are fatally or non-fatally struck by passing vehicles in the United States.

The National Fire Protection Association reported that 61 U.S. firefighters were killed when struck by vehicles from 2000-2013. There has also been an unnerving increase in officers being struck by vehicles. The National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund (NLEOMF) found that 126 law enforcement officers were killed when struck by vehicles from 2008-2017. Although these numbers may seem small, these are lives that are lost due to a completely preventable act. According to the NLEOMF, there has been a 33% increase in traffic related fatalities for officers in the United States in the first three months of 2019 when compared to the first three months of 2018. For the Illinois State Police alone, there have been 16 troopers who were struck since January 1st, 2019 to April 1st, 2019. Three of these officers were killed by motorists. This is almost twice the number of troopers who were struck in all of 2018 and averages more than one trooper being struck a week.

In Illinois, law enforcement officers conduct more than 2 million traffic stops every year. Performing traffic stops is a basic function of policing. These officers are focused on protecting our safety, enforcing the law, and saving lives. Drivers should be looking out for their lives as well, by obeying Scott’s Law and minimizing the danger these officers face daily. The drivers who hit officers were not always intoxicated, not always distracted, the road conditions were not always poor, and these accidents are occurring at all times of the day. These are drivers who violate Scott’s Law and threaten officers everywhere when they are simply doing their job. Everyone should listen to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration when they say, “When you’re out on the road, do your part to help to protect emergency responders. If you see them working on the roadside, Move Over to give them the room they need to work safely.” The fact that people do not do this, is the problem.

1. https://police.illinoisstate.edu/safety/scott/
Nebraska Flooding
By: Deja Brown, Intern

Nebraska is currently enduring a devastating flood, which is the most widespread disaster in the state’s history. According to Gro Intelligence, “livestock was washed away, bridges and roads were wiped out, and thousands of people were evacuated from their homes. At least three people were reported killed as a result of the storm.” This devastating flood spread from Nebraska to parts of western Iowa and Jordan, Missouri.

The purpose of Nebraska State Homeland Security is to enhance Nebraska’s capability and capacity to detect, prevent, protect, respond to, and recover from threats or incidents of terrorism, disasters, and major emergencies. Flooding particularly devastates Nebraska’s agriculture, a main economic driver. Several Nebraska manufacturing activities which may be affected include meat processing, livestock feed, and dairy products.

Nebraska’s Homeland Security strategy includes close coordination among response groups, public health, and medical assets. The Office of Health Affairs (OHA), a component within the United States Department of Homeland Security, assists with recovery from disasters affecting the nation.

Nebraska Homeland Security provides whole community coordination by planning, training, exercising, and acquiring supplies to sustain medical care. Omaha has resources to handle and recover from natural disasters. However, hopefully they never need to use these resources again.

During this catastrophic event, the Department of Homeland Security is responsible for Nebraska’s interoperable communications. This is a difficult task for Omaha because most of their communication equipment and generators need to be replaced or repaired. Sustainment of these infrastructures are needed to ensure strategic and tactical communications plans are up-to-date, operational, and meeting the needs of first responders. Communication is pertinent to those responsible for restoring the community.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security plays a significant role in assisting Omaha in recuperating from the flood. Recovering from a disaster is a gradual process. Basic needs of residents, such as food, shelter, and safety, is a primary issue. The Department of Homeland Security delivers disaster assistance to aid those suffering with critical expenses. This disaster assistance includes financial or direct assistance to individuals, families, and businesses whose property has been damaged or destroyed and whose losses are not covered by insurance. Throughout this period, many people will rely on disaster assistance to help them regain their footing until the community is reconstructed.

1 - https://www.weather.gov/safety/flood-states-ne
2 - https://nema.nebraska.gov/preparedness/nebraska-homeland-security
4 - https://www.dhs.gov/workforce-health-and-medical-support-division
5 - https://www.dhs.gov/disaster-assistance
6 - https://www.gro-intelligence.com/insights/where-midwest-floods-have-the-most-impact-on-acres-planted
The Professional Research Pool for Criminal Justice Science (PRP) is a platform for researchers and participants in the criminal justice field to conduct and complete research. Research is essential for implementation of empirically-based criminal justice policies and practices. Through the PRP, researchers can disseminate studies to valid participants. Professionals from all criminal justice fields may join as a participant to contribute to studies. Research studies may focus on the six pillars of the President’s Task Force on 21st Century Policing, building trust and legitimacy, policy and oversight, technology and social media, community policing and crime reduction, training and education, and officer wellness and safety. To join the PRP and for more information, please visit [here](#).

**Law Enforcement Executive Forum**

The Law Enforcement Executive Forum provides the criminal justice community with best practices and emerging technology for law enforcement leaders. The Forum is written for and by criminal justice professionals and scholars to share their opinions and success with others. Published quarterly, the journal provides readers with current issues, trends, and evidence-based practices in the field of criminal justice.

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The following articles will be available in 19.1 of the Law Enforcement Executive Forum:

- **Innovations in Problem Solving Justice and Behavioral Health** discusses the improvements and issues with the behavioral health system. Developments to address root problems which create barriers for those with mental illnesses are suggested.

- **Police Chiefs Perspectives regarding Obesity among Law Enforcement Officers** studies police chiefs’ beliefs about officer obesity and their perception of the police chief’s role in addressing the issue. Major themes include the definition of obesity, resources to address obesity, and the culture of health.

- **Drugs, Law Enforcement, and the U.S.: Is “Third Border” Still Relevant to the U.S.’s Strategic Interests?** analyzes the problems associated with drug trafficking in the Caribbean and the U.S.’s third border. Drug organizations threaten citizens and the states they operate within.

- **Identifying Various Gang Prevention and Intervention Program to Reduce Gang Violence and Understand Why Youth Join Gangs** reviews why youth join gangs and reinforces innovative programs which successfully affect drug control, violent crime, and enhancements to the criminal justice system.

- **Heroin Seizures in Turkey after 17-25 December 2013 Corruption Scandal** investigates the events and policies which caused a significant decrease in heroin seizures. The effects focused on include stricter personnel policies following a corruption scandal and a failed coup attempt.

Visit the Law Enforcement Executive Forum website [here](#) to purchase the whole volume or individual articles!

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Mental Health Awareness Course

Cost-free legal mandate training available! The Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board Executive Institute is pleased to announce the new course “Mental Health Awareness” is now available on the Online Learning Network.

This 8-hour course is meant to provide law enforcement officers with an awareness of mental health issues including a history of the mental health system, types of mental health illnesses including signs and symptoms, and common treatments and medications. The course also focuses on potential interactions law enforcement officers may have on a regular basis with these individuals, their families, and service providers including de-escalating a potential crisis situation.

Legal mandates met: Human rights, Law updates, Mental health awareness and response, Procedural justice, and Use of force.

Visit www.ptblearning.org to register for the course.

Illinois School and Campus Safety Program

The Illinois School and Campus Safety Program is a partnership between the Illinois Terrorism Task Force and Western Illinois University, which provides awareness and preparedness training to enhance organizational capacity to plan for, respond to, and recover from an emergency or disaster. As such, the program partners with other entities invested in safety, including the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Illinois Emergency Management Agency, the State Terrorism & Intelligence Center, New Mexico Tech, and others.

A list of our available courses are available in our brochure, accessible here. Courses are divided into K-12 and Higher Education. Courses available include, Student Behavioral Threat Assessment, Incident Response to Terrorist Bombings, Understanding and Planning for School Bomb Incidents, Developing Emergency Operations Plans, and Campus Emergencies Prevention, Response, and Recovery.

Keeping our schools and campuses safe requires communication and collaboration on the part of administrators; faculty and staff; first responders including police, fire, and EMS; and many other entities.

Online Learning Network

The Executive Institute recognizes budgetary constraints or a tight schedule can limit officers from attending a traditional classroom course. That is why we introduced a series of cost-free online courses that gives the officer the flexibility to learn from home or at work. Click here for more information.

The Online Learning Network:

- Provides opportunity to work from a location with an Internet connection anytime, anywhere
- Has interactive learning activities;
- Has built-in learning and knowledge assessments;
- Meets current statutory requirements click here for mandates and related courses;
- Has a library of relevant topics for law enforcement;
- Tracks and retains officer training records;
- Provides a Certificate of Completion for training records.

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Susan C. Nichols, MS Ed
Director

Eric C. Arnold
Program Manager, School & Campus Safety

Laura E. Black, MA
Coordinator, School & Campus Safety

Cindi J. Bricker
Operational Manager

Derek W. Carle
Program Manager, Center for Homeland Security and Leadership

Jeff A. Fritz
Education & Training Division

Heather F. Hotz, MA
Manager, Education & Training Division

Jenessa M. Lundgren
Program Manager, Special Projects

Emilie E. Payne
Registrar

Barend Wurth
Program Manager, Education & Training Division

Tyler Dudek
Senior Graduate Assistant

Grant Senderak
Graduate Assistant

Nathan Brown
Graduate Assistant

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