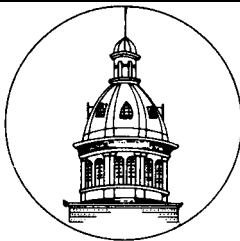


Richard Eckstrom, CPA
Comptroller General
of
South Carolina



News Release

WADE HAMPTON STATE OFFICE BUILDING, COLUMBIA SC 29201

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

December 3, 2007

Public Officials Rally to Promote Safer Teen Driving!

State and local officials will meet on Tuesday, December 4, 2007 at 10:00 AM in the ground floor portico of the State House to promote the Alive at 25 Defensive Driving Program sponsored by the South Carolina National Safety Council and to film a public service announcement on defensive driving.

Lt. Gov. Andre Bauer, Comptroller General Richard Eckstrom, Senator Joel Lourie, Senator John Courson, Senator Ronnie Cromer, Representative Nathan Ballentine, Representative Chip Huggins, Lexington County Sheriff James Metts, Lexington School District One Superintendent Karen Woodward, Lexington School District Five Superintendent Scott Andersen, Wray Productions owner Harold Wray, South Carolina National Safety Council's Executive Director Brooke Russell, Spartanburg Sheriffs Department, and teachers and students from Dutch Fork High School will be on hand to discuss the Alive at 25 Program.

Media representatives are urged to cover this event to help increase awareness by young adults and their parents of the importance of safe driving during the Holidays, a period when teen fatalities spike in South Carolina.

Alive at 25, a defensive driver education program for young drivers, was piloted at Dutch Fork High School in April 2007. It has since been expanded to 9 high schools throughout the state. In schools offering the program, only students who attend the program are given permission to drive or park their vehicles on campus.

Motor vehicle crashes are the #1 killer of teens, accounting for 44% of all teen deaths in the United States.

Unlike traditional driver's education courses that focus on the *mechanics* of driving, Alive at 25 addresses the *behaviors* of driving.

The program rewards good decision-making and provides tools for making better decisions in a peer-pressure environment.

The program, developed by the National Safety Council, concentrates on drivers between the ages of 14 and 24 - the group most likely to be involved in fatal collisions. It is taught by off duty law enforcement officers in an intense 4- hour session that focuses on improving the behavior and decision-making of young drivers and their passengers.

More information on the South Carolina National Safety Council and the Alive at 25 Program is available at www.scnsc.org.

Wray Automotive is the major sponsor and producer for the PSA being filmed, and it avidly supports the Alive at 25 Program throughout SC.

###

COMPTROLLER GENERAL'S OFFICE / (803) 734-2588
FAX / (803) 734-2064