



## 2025 TRAFFIC SAFETY AWARDS

Join Our Driving Concern in lauding the best practices of this year's honorees!

### EXCELLENCE IN TRAFFIC SAFETY City of Sharonville Police Department

In 2024, the City of Sharonville Police Department required nearly every road patrol employee—regardless of their tenure—to attend driver's training at the Ohio Police Officer's Training Academy. Whether they were new hires or long-standing members of the department, all were included. The police department invested thousands of dollars to ensure officers received this training, with some attending a one-day course and others completing a more comprehensive

three-day program. This was in keeping with one of the department's core values:

- An organization that prioritizes safety creates an environment where employees feel valued and protected

Crashes involving police department vehicles and emergency responders operating them are no different than crash incidents involving others in today's fast-paced world. But when emergency responders learn to navigate the roads safely—even while under duress—they are better able to protect themselves and community members from safety risks. In turn, this helps the department reduce

costs associated with crashes, including injuries and property damage, and limit liability exposure.



**Our Driving Concern** provides free training, education and resources on distracted driving, aggressive driving/speeding, passenger restraint, impaired driving and other transportation and driver safety topics. We work with risk managers, safety leaders and HR professionals to help them build their driver and traffic safety programs.

The **Our Driving Concern Traffic Safety Awards** for Ohio is in its inaugural year, and will be presented annually to Ohio organizations that encourage positive driver behaviors among employees on and off the job. The goal is to decrease injuries and fatalities that are a result of crashes on state roads.

# HONORING OHIO EMPLOYERS

**The workplace is a natural setting for distributing traffic safety messages and discussing driver behaviors—and it makes dollars and sense to do just that.**

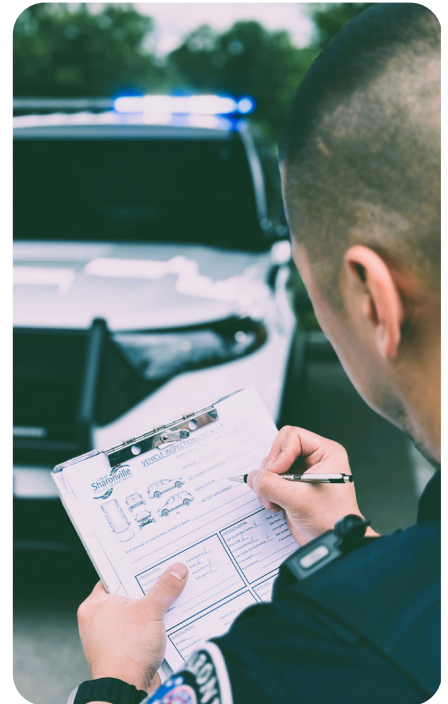
## Extra Touch

The City of Sharonville contracts with Lexipol, a nationwide leader in risk management, to set its policies and procedures. Patrol officer training focuses on safe vehicle operation in all circumstances, from safe and courteous everyday driving to high-stakes emergency response situations. Each component of the training is guided by nationally recognized standards and best practices. What separates Sharonville from others is how a sense of traffic safety is instilled from day one:

- Patrol officers receive constant supervision and undergo regular employee reviews
- In-car video footage is used to shape coaching opportunities
- High-risk response incidents are routinely reviewed

- Training encompasses a wide range of topics, covering everything from traffic safety skills to law and legal knowledge

Safety is a fundamental value in the City of Sharonville Police Department. Safety performance is measured by tracking incidents and working to ensure the department's 52 employees receive continuous education and training.



## Ohio Operation Lifesaver

Based in Pioneer, Ohio Operation Lifesaver is on a mission to reduce vehicle-train and pedestrian-train incidents across the state. The nonprofit's work is grounded in the three Es of Safety: Education, Engineering, Enforcement.



### Driving Safety in 2024

Led by Alan Stouder and supported by 70 dedicated volunteers, the team made big strides in 2024 to spread awareness and build safer communities. Here's how they made an impact:

- *Delivered 330 rail safety presentations to audiences of all ages*
- *Engaged 9,581 visitors at the Ohio State Fair*
- *Conducted six Positive Enforcement Blitzes at 12 highway-rail crossing sites, reaching 183 drivers*
- *Held 19 specialized training sessions for 185 first responders, focusing on emergency response*
- *Produced public service announcements aired on the Cincinnati Reds Inside Pitch show and throughout Cleveland media*

These efforts were honored with proclamations from Governor Mike DeWine and the Ohio House of Representatives—but the mission is far from over.

### The Ongoing Challenge

A train strikes a vehicle or person every three hours in the U.S. Ohio, one of the country's busiest rail states, faces an ongoing challenge with:

- 5,100 miles of rail
- 5,600 highway-rail crossings
- About 35 railroads operating

In fact, Ohio has ranked among the top 10 states for vehicle-train and pedestrian-train incidents for the past decade. From January through November 2024 alone, the state saw:

- 72 vehicle-train collisions (9th highest in the U.S.)
- 34 pedestrian-train incidents (also 9th highest)

### A Network of Support

To expand its safety reach, Ohio Operation Lifesaver participates in conferences and shares free rail safety resources with schools, agencies and community leaders. Volunteers complete ongoing training on both rail and



# AWARD HONORS

**The Our Driving Concern program's mission is to assist employers in implementing well-developed policies and comprehensive workplace programs that can help reduce traffic crashes.**

roadway safety trends, helping tailor outreach for maximum impact.

## **A National Effort**

Part of a nationwide program in 47 states, Operation Lifesaver provides local partners with crash data, training and ready-to-use educational materials—all free of charge.

Because when it comes to rail safety, a little awareness goes a long way.



**Ohio Operation Lifesaver's efforts to spread awareness and build safer communities were honored with proclamations from Governor Mike DeWine and the Ohio House of Representatives.**

## **Transportation Research Center**

At its 4,500-acre campus in East Liberty, Transportation Research Center employees are helping shape the future of mobility. Through rigorous testing, innovative research and global collaboration, TRC supports the development of safer, smarter vehicles.

Back in the early 1960s, the U.S. traffic fatality rate stood at 5.31 deaths per 100 million miles driven. Today, it's around 1.5—thanks in part to improvements in vehicle technology, infrastructure and regulations. TRC has played a vital role in that progress by testing and refining vehicle safety features.

### **Leading the Way in Life-Saving Technologies**

According to the U.S. Department of Transportation, advanced driver-assist technologies could save up to 35,000 lives annually. TRC is helping

make that possible by supporting government agencies, researchers and private companies in developing and testing these innovations.

In 2024, TRC launched a \$25 million upgrade to its Impact Laboratory to boost crashworthiness research. As part of its Research Consortium for Crashworthiness in Automated Driving Systems, TRC also hosted workshops with automakers, suppliers and academics to explore crash protection solutions.



### **Safety: A Core Value**

TRC's commitment to safety doesn't stop with the vehicles it tests—it's part of the culture. Nearly 500 employees, plus hundreds of visitors each day, follow strict safety protocols on site. These include:

- Mandatory seat belt and motorcycle helmet use
- Safety training for all employees
- Clear guidelines on speed limits and handheld device use
- Quarterly seat belt compliance checks

TRC also runs seat belt demonstrations at local schools using crash test dummies to promote safety awareness.

### **Training, Monitoring and Accountability**

Each day, more than 1,200 people enter TRC's proving ground. Anyone operating a vehicle on-site must complete training, pass a driving exam and renew their TRC license every

# AWARD HONORS

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three years. Around-the-clock monitoring helps enforce speed limits and right-of-way rules.

## A Strong Safety Culture Includes:

- Leadership involvement
- New-hire orientation
- Employee safety recognition programs

TRC encourages everyone—employees, clients and contractors – to speak up if they see something unsafe. Incidents and near-misses are tracked to identify trends and prevent future issues. It's all part of TRC's mission to help build a safer transportation future.



In Ohio, transportation incidents are the leading cause of occupational fatalities at 39%<sup>1</sup>. The Our Driving Concern program emphasizes employee training, multi-faceted ongoing education and messaging to promote safe driving behaviors and make the roads safer for everyone.

<sup>1</sup> <https://injuryfacts.nsc.org/state-data/at-work/work-deaths-by-state>

## LIFE-SAVING, COST-SAVING RESULTS

The following are highlights from our award honorees' measurable results. Traffic safety programs WORK.

- ✓ Transportation Research Center launched a \$25 million upgrade to its Impact Laboratory to boost crashworthiness research in 2024.
- ✓ Ohio Operation Lifesaver delivered 330 rail safety presentations in 2024.
- ✓ In 2024, the City of Sharonville Police Department invested thousands of dollars for road patrol employees to attend driver's training at the Ohio Police Officer's Training Academy.
- ✓ In 2024, Transportation Research Center hosted workshops with automakers, suppliers and academics to explore crash protection solutions.
- ✓ Ohio Operation Lifesaver utilizes its 70 dedicated volunteers to spread awareness around train incidents and build safer communities.
- ✓ Anyone operating a vehicle on-site at Transportation Research Center must complete training, pass a driving exam and renew their TRC license every three years.
- ✓ The City of Sharonville Police Department's efforts help to reduce injuries and property damage and limit liability exposure.
- ✓ Ohio Operation Lifesaver produced public service announcements aired on the Cincinnati Reds Inside Pitch show and throughout Cleveland media.