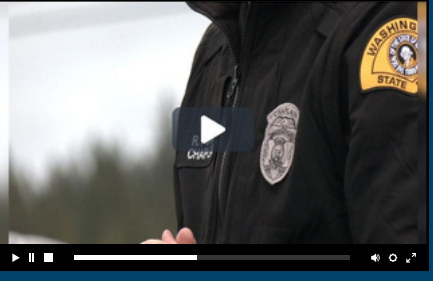


AGENCY AT A *glance* SO FAR THIS YEAR...

- 183 impaired drivers arrested
- 577 collisions investigated
- Two fatality collisions
- 604 distracted driving contacts
- 387 seatbelt violations
- 2,340 aggressive driver contacts
- 6,625 excessive speed contacts
- 1,404 CMV inspections

YOUR WSP HEADLINES

‘You’re ruining a person’s day’: How law enforcement chaplains break tragic news



VOLUNTEERS - KHQ covers the topic of our Washington State Patrol chaplains, highlighting the difficult and yet extremely necessary parts of their jobs, and what leads them to volunteer with WSP.

I-5 PROTEST: Chief Batiste issues statement

INVESTIGATION ONGOING - Washington State Patrol (WSP) Chief John R. Batiste [issued a statement this week](#) in response to Saturday’s protest on Interstate 5 in Seattle, Wash., which led to the complete shutdown of the highway for several hours.

KING COUNTY: WSP seeking witnesses in shooting

STATE ROUTE 167 - Washington State Patrol (WSP) detectives are seeking witness of a drive-by shooting that occurred on [SR 167 near Ellingson](#).

GRAYS HARBOR: Hit-and-run suspect apprehended

TAKEN INTO CUSTODY - A 64-year-old man was [taken into custody](#) for suspicion of being the driver involved in a felony hit-and-run collision that claimed the life of a bicyclist.

DO YOU HAVE STORIES YOU WANT TO SHARE?

SEND THEM IN - We strive to highlight the amazing work across the agency. If you have something happening in your division or district you would like to see highlighted in a future edition of *The Milepost*, please e-mail pio@wsp.wa.gov.

Human Trafficking Awareness Week



STATEWIDE - In honor of National Human Trafficking Prevention Month, the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA) and the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) have sponsored a Human Trafficking Awareness initiative from Jan. 8 to Jan 12. This is an awareness and outreach effort to educate commercial motor vehicle drivers, motor carriers, law enforcement officers, and the public about the crime of human trafficking.

Washington State Patrol (WSP) Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Officers have proudly participated in this initiative, educating commercial motor vehicle operators about human trafficking and providing information and resources at our Ports of Entry and other scale facilities across the state.

According to the United Nations, human trafficking is the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, or receipt of people through force, fraud, or deception, with the aim of exploiting them for profit. Men, women, and children of all ages and from all backgrounds can become victims of this crime.

If you suspect someone is in a human trafficking situation or you are the victim of human trafficking, call the U.S. National Human Trafficking Hotline at 888-373-7888 or text 233733, or visit their website.

WSP staying busy with snowy conditions



SHELTON, Wash. - The Washington State Patrol (WSP) troopers, commercial vehicle enforcement officers, and communications officers have been busy this week receiving and responding to winter-weather related calls. For example, between midnight Tuesday and 3 p.m. Wednesday, the WSP received 242 calls for service in the Snoqualmie, Stevens, and Blewett pass areas. Most of these calls were for disabled vehicles, debris in the roadway, and collisions. Great job to everyone for their hard work so far, and stay safe as more winter weather makes its way across the state.

WSP attends NAACP community dinner

BREMERTON, Wash. - Members of the Washington State Patrol (WSP), including District 8 troopers, members of the Office of Culture and Engagement (OCE), and others attended the annual NAACP community law enforcement dinner last month.

The dinner provides the community the opportunity to have in person conversations with members of law enforcement, allowing for the share of ideas and proactive engagement. Thank you to everyone who attended and made it a memorable event.



WSP's Firearms Background Division celebrates formation, new SAFE system during ceremony



OLYMPIA, Wash. - The Washington State Patrol's (WSP's) Firearms Background Division (FBD) celebrated both their formation as a work unit and the Secure Automated Firearms E-Check or SAFE system during a celebration ceremony on Thursday.

This gathering at the Helen Sommers Building included Chief John R. Batiste and many members of the executive staff, as well as numerous stakeholders who have been involved with FBD for nearly the past three years. The event was hosted by FBD Commander Kateri Candee, who not only provided an overview of why the division was formed, but described the huge amount of work accomplished since May 2021 when the division was formed, including the hiring of personnel, ordering furniture and equipment, and creating policies and procedures for work never before performed at the state level.

A few key dates include:

- 2019 - SHB1949 directed the Office of Financial Management (OFM) to conduct a feasibility study that assesses the potential for the state to create a single point of contact for firearm background checks in Washington.
 - 2020 - Governor Inslee signs E2SHB 2467, effective June 11, 2020, establishing a centralized point of contact and background check system for firearms transfers within the State Patrol, and directing WSP to develop a plan for implementing the new program.
 - May 2021 - ESSB 5092 signed by the Governor, providing funding for the unit/Division
 - May 7, 2021 - Kateri Candee appointed by Chief Batiste to be the first Commander of the Firearms Background Division
 - November 2021 - August 2023 - SAFE is designed, developed, tested, and deployed
 - April 14, 2023 - after nearly 18 months of design and remodeling, FBD moves into Suite 2200 at the Helen Sommers Building
 - Aug. 8, 2023 - First background check submitted by a firearm dealer
- After the introductory overview, she went on to recognize the significant number of individual contributors to the project with a division challenge coin.

Commander Candee was presented a Chief's Coin by Chief Batiste in recognition of her outstanding leadership in creating the first new Division in the WSP in many years.

Finally, the last portion of the event was a demonstration of SAFE by Assistant Commander, Kevin Baird, who showed not only the firearm dealer side of the system, but what WSP examiners see and how they adjudicate the background checks.

The event was well attended and also broadcast live on the WSP YouTube channel, [which can be viewed here.](#)



Stakeholders were acknowledged in the following groups:

- Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC)
- Health Care Authority (HCA)
- Department of Licensing (DOL)
- Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF)
- WSP Information Technology Division
- WSP Electronic Services Division
- WSP Budget and Fiscal Services
- WSP Property Management Division
- FBD Employees and Key Project Members
- Project Vendor Catalyst Consulting Group
- Firearms Background Check Advisory Board

WSP's ESD quick to respond to damaged Sumas Tower powerline

SUMAS, Wash. - Washington State Patrol's Electronic Services Division (ESD) was quick to respond when a local logging company inadvertently dug up a powerline connected to the Sumas Tower last week.

The Sumas Tower is utilized by agencies across Whatcom County, including the U.S. Border Patrol, local 9-1-1 lines, fire, and other law enforcement agencies. Thankfully, the tower's back up generators kicked into action once the powerline was compromised, though the propane ran generators can only provide power for about two weeks. WSP's ESD personnel quickly worked to mitigate the issue and restore the main power source. High voltage electricians were scheduled to arrive a week later and assess the overall damage. As they were completing a damage assessment, ESD personnel went to the tower to check the propane levels. This check involved driving down a seven-mile long forest service road - the last 1/2 mile of which was covered in snow and had to be navigated on foot.

The powerline is not estimated to be replaced and power restored until Jan. 26. That includes replacing 1,000 feet of cable. In that time, the propane generator will need to be refilled twice to ensure continual power. This task will be made even more difficult with expected storms in the area.

Thank you to our ESD personnel for your dedication to keeping this important equipment, allowing first responders in the area to continue to conduct their life saving business accordingly. The success truly takes a team that you are a vital part of!



honesty - integrity - accountability - attention to detail - work ethic