

Our mission is working together as ONE DPS to provide a safe and secure Utah.

Keith D. Squires
Commissioner



Utah

Department of Public Safety

DPS in the News



Governor Herbert joined Commissioner Squires, Colonel Fuhr and law enforcement from across the Wasatch Front at the Highway Safety Office's annual impaired driving prevention press conference on December 18th. Carmen Rasmussen Herbert and David Osmond were rockin' around the Christmas tree as they performed songs to encourage sober driving during the holiday season. [Click here to watch a story from KSL about the event.](#)

[Click here or on the images to watch live performances from the press conference.](#)



Commissioner Squires Makes Refugee Screening Recommendations

Following the terrorist attacks in Paris, Governor Herbert directed the Utah Department of Public Safety to reevaluate the security checks for potential refugees currently used by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of State, and the Department of Homeland Security as part of Utah's refugee program.

In early December, Commissioner Squires revealed his recommendations following his review of the federal government's refugee screening process. "The overall federal process is very established and very layered," Commissioner Squires said. "There's nothing more that I can check as far as databases. I feel that that's ultimately the responsibility of the federal agencies. What we can do is look at enhancing security and assistance once those individuals do reach our state."

Commissioner Squires said refugees should be welcomed and encouraged to quickly assimilate. "Utah, in my opinion and observation, has done a great job

of not only welcoming refugees to our state, but also to help them assimilate into our communities and to be part of what Utah is all about," Commissioner Squires said. "I don't want to do anything that hurts that."

To assist in the assimilation process, Commissioner Squires received approval from Governor Herbert to reassign agents from DPS' State Bureau of Investigation to work with relocation teams to provide refugees with information about Utah's laws and interact in a proactive and positive way with the new Utahns.

"They're from vulnerable communities and populations that sometimes may be susceptible to the influences of criminal or terrorist efforts to get them to do things, so by having that regular interaction with law enforcement, it opens up the dialogue," Commissioner Squires said.

DPS plans to have an initial phase of the program in place in the coming weeks.



Driver License Division Implements New Test and Opens New Building

Prospective drivers in Utah now need to demonstrate their knowledge of more than just technical and practical driving information. Beginning January 1st, all applicants for an original or provisional class D driver license need to take an additional exam. The Highway Safety and Trends exam consists of questions covering driving safety topics and the top five major causes of traffic-related deaths.

Representative Steve Eliason sponsored the legislation that created the exam to promote better education of the causes of highway fatalities. It will be created using information gathered and published by DPS' Highway Safety Office. Driver license applicants can take the test online and must receive 100% on the

exam. [View a fact sheet about the exam here.](#)

Christmas arrived early for DLD employees and constituents in the Vernal area: on December 21st DLD opened a new office to better serve the area. The new facility is attractive, spacious, modern, efficient and it has plenty of parking available.

With the new facility, the Vernal DLD office will have the ability to conduct commercial driver license and motorcycle testing on site. Once the weather warms up, Marge Dalton, DLD Facilities Program Manager, reports that they will be able to pour the extremely large pad used for these tests. If you're in the Vernal area, be sure to check out DLD's new digs.

New Algorithm Means More Hits for Crime Lab

A significant software upgrade by the Western Identification Network (WIN) caused an especially busy month for the latent print section at the state crime lab. The WIN is a consortium of state and local law enforcement agencies from Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, some agencies in California and the FBI.

A Latent Print Primer

Most fingerprints and palm prints encountered at crime scenes can be classified as latent prints, meaning they cannot be readily seen with the naked eye. These types of prints need enhancement in order to be seen and the ID Section at the crime lab has a variety of procedures to visualize these latent prints.

Latent prints recovered from items of evidence that are not identified to suspects, victims or anyone else who realistically could have handled the evidence are searched via WIN in the FBI's Automatic Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS). AFIS is an interconnected computer system that contains

databases of both known prints, such as those taken during suspect bookings or for employment background checks, and latent prints recovered from crime scene evidence. Latent prints entered to AFIS are searched against the millions of known prints on file. Candidate lists are generated by AFIS, based on the similarity of the latent prints to the known print, and the crime lab receives a notification of a possible match. Crime lab fingerprint analysts then compare the latent prints to the prints on the candidate lists.

The Results of the Upgrade

The WIN recently rewrote the mathematical algorithm for AFIS and applied it across the system. Registered prints are now being searched again under the new algorithm and this has resulted in more latent fingerprint "hits," or matches, from current and cold cases. The system is providing up to 200 ten-print to latent print inquiries per day, which is a significant number for Utah. The latent fingerprint hits ultimately result in more crimes being solved.

