

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



On July 6th, UHP Trooper David Schiers was helping with an accident when a passing vehicle lost control and slammed into him, leaving him with critical injuries. The dramatic dash cam showing the crash garnered national attention and resonated throughout the State.

Trooper Schiers was released from the hospital on July 20th and was honored with a parade when he returned home to Parowan.

Watch interviews with Trooper Schiers

\* [click here for Fox13](#)

\* [click here for KSL](#)



### Recent Initiative in Action

Over two days in July, Utah Highway Patrol Troopers and State Bureau of Investigation (SBI) Agents identified and recovered six juveniles from abusive circumstances in two separate locations in the State. The cases demonstrate the effectiveness of the Department of Public Safety's adoption of an initiative called Interdiction for the Protection of Children (IPC).

On July 20, 2015, a UHP Trooper encountered three children, as pedestrians, ranging from ages 7-13 years old standing on the side of I-215 freeway. The juveniles indicated to the trooper that they were leaving Utah to go where their grandparents lived. SBI agents determined a potentially abusive situation was occurring that led the children to want to leave the state. Agents coordinated with Salt Lake City detectives and the Children's Justice Center for resources related to the well-being of the juveniles.

A day later, a trooper stopped a semi truck that appeared to be on fire in Grand County. After officers noticed

bruising on one of three children who were passengers in the truck, and interviewed the children, they found sufficient evidence to arrest one adult for child abuse. Both investigations are ongoing at this point.

The IPC initiative was launched in 2009 by the Texas Department of Public Safety. It is designed to rescue and protect children and apprehend criminal predators by teaching law enforcement officers how to recognize indicators of missing, exploited and at-risk children who do not exhibit obvious signs of abuse. Before the

creation of the program, uniformed officers historically were not trained to recognize characteristics and indicators of an endangered or missing child.

In 2014, the Utah Department of Public Safety partnered with Texas DPS and trained the UHP Criminal Interdiction Team and over 100 other troopers and patrol officers in the State. Since the training, Utah DPS has recovered eight missing, endangered or exploited children.



Sgt. Royce, an SLCPD officer, Lt. Kotter and Commissioner Squires at press conference regarding IPC (Photo credit: @TVHeidiHatch)



## First in State

The Division of Emergency Management’s Public Information Officer (PIO) has teamed up with Salt Lake County Emergency Management to create Utah’s first Virtual Operations Support Team (VOST – rhymes with “cost.”)

A VOST is a team of social media experts who will help monitor, track, analyze and amplify a first responder’s operation efforts on



Follow @UtahVOST1 on Twitter

social media during an incident.

Utah’s VOST will be forming a Leadership Committee as a subgroup of the PIO Association to recruit digital volunteers who want to play a role in the VOST. The volunteers can help curate social media, create digital maps and retweet and repost important content during an incident.

## New Prioritization Tool

The Statewide Information and Analysis Center (SIAC) has developed and recently deployed the Utah Critical Infrastructure Prioritization (UCIP) Tool. This tool is currently being piloted in the following three jurisdictional areas across Utah: Salt Lake City, Washington County, and Duchesne, Uintah and Daggett Counties. The UCIP Tool provides regional emergency managers with a simple validated system to identify and prioritize critical infrastructure within those jurisdictions for both protection efforts

and restoration of services following a system failure. In coordination with the Division of Emergency Management (DEM) and DEM Regional Liaison Officers, the SIAC has provided detailed briefings and demonstrations to the respective Emergency Managers for these jurisdictions. Next steps include building initial data sets of key critical infrastructure sites, supported by both detailed research and on-site field surveys.

## A Record Number of Hits

The State Crime Lab utilizes the FBI’s Combined DNA Index System, known as CODIS, which is a software platform that blends forensic science and computer technology. CODIS is a multi-index system which can be searched to generate investigative leads.

CODIS is used to search DNA profiles obtained from crime scene evidence against DNA profiles from other crime scenes and from convicted offenders and arrestees. CODIS can generate investigative leads in cases when a match is obtained. When the DNA profile from a crime scene matches a sample taken from another crime scene, the cases may be linked in what is called a forensic hit. When the crime scene

sample matches a convicted offender or arrestee sample, the result is called an offender hit. Hits give investigating officers valuable information that helps them focus their investigation.

In July, the crime lab had 17 CODIS hits, and this data included eight cases within the state and nine interstate hits. According to internal records, the laboratory has never had this many hits in one month. Eight of the hits were to sexual assault cases and the remaining were for property crimes.

Sources:  
<http://www.nij.gov/journals/266/pages/backlogs-codis.aspx>  
<http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/lab/codis/codis-and-ndis-fact-sheet>

CODIS Statistics	2015 Nationally	2015 UTAH
Offender Profiles	11,741,632	94,600
Arrestee Profiles	2,028,734	3,394
Forensic Profiles	638,162	822
Investigations Aided	274,648	88