

ANNUAL REPORT

The Utah Department of Public Safety

2024



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COMMISSIONER'S MESSAGE



As we look back on the past year, I am incredibly proud of the dedication and resilience shown by the men and women of the Department of Public Safety. Our team has tirelessly worked to safeguard our communities and respond to emergencies with incredible commitment, upholding the highest standards of service. Together, we have faced challenges head-on, implemented innovative solutions, and strengthened partnerships to enhance public safety across Utah. Moving forward, our mission remains clear: to protect, serve, and Keeping Utah Safe. Thank you for your continued support.

Jess L. Anderson



JESS L. ANDERSON
Commissioner

Jess L. Anderson assumed the role of Commissioner of Public Safety in August 2018, overseeing all divisions and special units of DPS. With over 25 years at DPS, Commissioner Anderson holds a Master's in Criminal Justice from Weber State University and completed his undergraduate studies at Ashford University in Criminal and Social Justice. He is also a graduate of the FBI National Academy, FBI Command College, Northwestern Police Staff and Command, and IACP Leadership in Police Organizations. He also serves as the Governor's Homeland Security Advisor, co-chairing the Cyber-Security Task Force. He also serves as the Governor's Homeland Security Advisor, co-chairing the Cyber-Security Task Force.



MICHAEL RAPICH
Deputy Commissioner

Colonel Rapich has served the Department of Public Safety for over 32 years. He oversees the Utah Highway Patrol, Division of Emergency Management, the Public Safety Communications Bureau, and the Highway Safety Office. Colonel Rapich has over 18 years of leadership experience and is a graduate of Brigham Young University with a Master's of Public Administration, as well as a Bachelor's of Criminal Justice from Columbia College.



KRISTY RIGBY
Deputy Commissioner

Kristy Rigby has been with DPS for more than 30 years. During her time at the Highway Safety Office she developed innovative and effective programs to save lives on our roadways. While serving as Director for the Office, she was asked to accept the position of Deputy Commissioner in October 2018 and oversaw the Highway Safety Office, Driver License Division, and Bureau of Criminal Identification before her retirement at the end of 2024.



JIMMY HIGGS
Deputy Commissioner

Jimmy Higgs has served in DPS for the past 27 years. He was appointed Deputy Commissioner in 2018 and oversees the Bureau of Criminal Identification, Information Security, the Bureau of Forensic Services, the Driver License Division, and the State Fire Marshal's Office. Jimmy received his Master's degree in Public Safety from the University of Virginia and his Bachelor's degree in Political Science from Weber State University.



BEAU MASON
Deputy Commissioner

Beau Mason has served in DPS for the past 20 years. In 2023, he was appointed Deputy Commissioner to oversee the transition of the Bureau of Emergency Medical Services to DPS, Mental Health Grants, and the State Security Chief program. He also oversees the State Bureau of Investigation, the State Information and Analysis Center, and the Division of Peace Officer Standards and Training. Beau is a graduate of Grand Canyon University, where he received a Master's degree in Leadership, and he also received a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice from SUU.

WHAT WE DO

Within the Utah Department of Public Safety (DPS), three leading priorities are defined by goals that embrace a mindset of success. These are not just words but actionable items with established objectives to create focus. With the proper direction, DPS is prepared to meet the expectations of the customer, the employee, and the State.

- **Personal Preparation** - Prepare employees for excellence in current assignments and future opportunities.
- **Internal Performance** - Foster an internal culture that embraces meaningful work and inspires outstanding employee performance.
- **External Service** - Provide quality and consistent external services that improve public safety.

Bureau of Forensic Services

To provide timely and comprehensive criminalistic services to criminal justice entities within the State of Utah.

Bureau of Criminal Identification (BCI)

To provide public safety agencies and the public with technical services, expertise, training, criminal justice information, permits, and related resources.

Bureau of Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

To promote an effective and resilient public health, trauma, and emergency health care system to respond to emergencies and disasters.

Communications Bureau

To provide effective communications support for public safety agencies, provide useful communications services for the public, and effectively manage the state's public safety communications resources.

Division of Emergency Management (DEM)

To achieve a self-sustaining culture of emergency preparedness for all individuals and communities in Utah.

Driver License Division (DLD)

To license and regulate drivers in Utah and promote public safety.

Fire Marshal's Office (FMO)

To identify, develop, and promote ways and means of protecting life and property from fire-related perils through direct action and coordination of Utah fire services.

Highway Safety Office (HSO)

To save lives by changing behavior, so everyone on Utah's roadways arrives safely.

Peace Officer Standards & Training (POST)

To provide professional standards and training, leadership and certification for peace officers and dispatchers as we work to protect the rights and privileges of Utah's citizens while elevating the integrity of the profession.

State Bureau of Investigation (SBI)

To provide professional investigative services to all people by investigating crime and working with allied agencies and the community.

Statewide Information & Analysis Center (SIAC)

To collect, analyze, and disseminate intelligence to enhance the protection of Utah's citizens, communities, and critical infrastructure.

Division of State Security

To provide a safe and secure environment statewide through professional service and engaged partnerships.

Utah Highway Patrol (UHP)

To provide quality police services and to protect the constitutional rights of all people in Utah.



JOE BROWN
Director of Finance



MARGE DALTON
Executive Assistant



SHANNA DURRANT
Agency Privacy Officer



BRITTANY ELMER
Facilities Specialist



KIM GIBB
Director of Legislative Affairs



KENT GODFREY
Director of Audits



CPT. DON GOULD
Executive Officer



TYSON JARRETT
Agency Information Security Manager



HILLARY KOELLNER
Director of Public Affairs



LT. MARY KAYE LUCAS
Office of Professional Standards



MELANIE MARLOWE
Director of Quality &
Process Improvement

BUREAU OF CRIMINAL IDENTIFICATION(BCI)

DIRECTOR JASON RICKS



OFFENDER REGISTRY MOVE

After a successful move to the Bureau of Criminal Identification from the Department of Corrections, the Offender Registry team worked to ensure accurate and timely reporting to the registry.

Highlights

- Offenders Processed: 1,932 offenders added to the Utah Public Sex/Kidnap Offender Website.
- Registration Forms Received and Audited: 25,925 offender registration forms received and processed.
- Failure to Register Charges: 312 Witness Statements used for preliminary hearings (aka 1102 Statements) regarding failure to register, permission slips, and protected area violations.
- Offenders Removed: 213 offenders were successfully removed after the expiration of their Utah registration requirement, and 8 were removed following court-ordered removal.
- Training: 16 training sessions conducted for outside agencies, starting July 1st, 2024, after the move to BCI.
- Name Changes: 1,697 initial name change requests processed.
- System Access & Training Provided: 141 SONAR users were trained and granted access to the system. 70 CAOR users were trained and granted access to the system.
- FBI NSOR Audit: Cleared with one finding of noncompliance attributed to "lack of knowledge and/or training by the Registry's vendor." The issue has been addressed with the vendor, and UCJIS has been updated by IT to allow for manual modification.

FIREARM DASHBOARD

The Brady Section acts as the Point of Contact (POC) for all firearm releases covered under the Brady Bill by conducting background checks on potential recipients from licensed firearm dealers in Utah. This year, the fourth most background checks were performed for firearm purchases.

The Brady Section is working with the Department of Technology Services to create a public-facing dashboard to replace static quarterly reports on firearm background checks, firearm purchase denials, reasons for denial, etc. The dashboard will provide comparative data from the past 25 years.

EXPUNGEMENTS

The Expungement Team works to provide a “second chance” to individuals by removing eligible criminal convictions and arrest records. This promotes justice and rehabilitation, allowing individuals to rebuild their lives free from the stigma of a criminal past. Clearing records opens access to employment, housing, and education.

Highlights

- **BCI received 4,439 applications for expungement**
- **Issued 22,940 certificates for the courts**
- **Processed 7,813 orders for expungement from the court**
- **BCI manually removed 23,708 incidents from Utah Criminal History**
- **Forwarded 119,428 incidents to law enforcement**
- **Processing time improvements**
- **Currently, the wait time for a Petitioned-Based Expungement is 34 days. The bureau received 474,480 records for clean slate expungements and has processed 297,531 of those, with 176,012 records remaining.**

Program Updates

During the 2023 legislative session, House Bill 352 and Senate Bill 163 introduced a “fee waiver” process for those who are indigent beginning October 1, 2024. This would waive the bureau’s certificate fees and court filing fees with the courts. As of December 9, 2024, the bureau has received 171 of those indigent applications. HB352 and SB136 also passed a “pause” on the automated processing of Clean Slate and Auto Expungement incidents beginning October 1, 2024, and ending on January 1, 2026. During this pause period, a person could still have their Clean Slate and Auto Expungements completed but now would need to initiate that process with the courts through a form. The process was also streamlined so that agencies no longer need to expunge records the bureau has sent unless they are releasing a record that has been expunged. This legislation also prioritized the bureau in which records received from the courts are expunged.

Public Portal Updates

On October 1, 2024, a public portal was launched to provide petitioners with application status updates using submission/receipt numbers and birth dates. While usage statistics are not yet available, the expungement team promotes this resource and provides guidance on accessing it through our website.

Legislative Updates

- Revisions to all customer correspondence to align with legislative requirements under HB352 and SB163.
- Creation of new letters, including indigent approval notifications and BCI collection fee letters.
- Enhanced rejection letters to provide clear guidance on deficiencies and required corrective actions to continue the application processing.
- Introduction of a fingerprint-only application notice rejections where additional payment is unnecessary, streamlining the resubmission process.

2025 Expungement Program Enhancements

In 2025, the Expungement Program will undergo significant rewriting to improve application processing, streamline internal procedures, and enhance customer service.

Key updates include:

- Expanded Submission Capabilities
- Enhanced Program Views
- Dashboard Enhancements
- Enhanced tracking and reporting on application types, certificate statistics, order finalizations, fee statuses, offense categories, dispositions, and charge classifications.
- Finalization Process Improvements
- Transition from Adobe
- Data Integration
- Automated docket information import, similar to existing criminal history data integration.

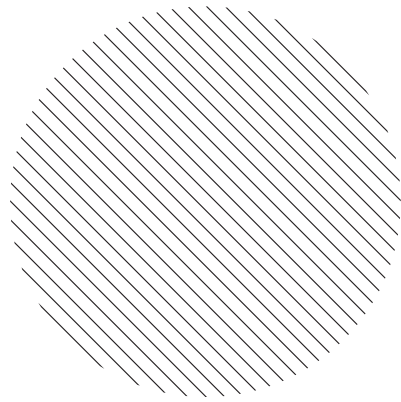
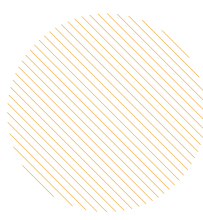


TRANSITION TO DPS

The Bureau of Emergency Medical Services was relocated from the Department of Health and Human Services effective July 1, 2024, due to 2023 Senate Bill 64. The Bureau was successfully transferred to DPS with no service interruptions or impact on customer service. Since migrating to the Department of Public Safety, the Bureau has held numerous educational training opportunities for staff, including learning about various DPS sister departments. The Bureau has begun discussions with DEM, SBI, and Highway Safety to develop collaborative cross-departmental approaches to statewide EMS issues. Before the move, Division Leadership conducted a statewide listening tour visiting agencies across all 29 counties, gathering needs, desires, and pain points that set the course for Bureau work projects.

SIMPLIFIED STATE LICENSING

EMS embarked upon a project to align the State License expiration dates for providers (EMR, EMT, AEMT, and Paramedic) with the certification date of the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) which does the testing for all state-licensed providers. Prior to this project, providers would have to track two expiration dates. The Bureau of EMS has reviewed and aligned over 3300 providers' licensure and certification dates. This effort should result in fewer providers falling out of service due to expiration and needing to re-test to remain licensed and certified.



BY THE NUMBERS

The Bureau of EMS Completed over 6800 background investigations, resulting in over 5600 license application approvals (New and Renewal). The Bureau licensed 962 new providers in 2024. The Bureau held fifteen Instructor Training courses, with 485 potentially new instructors attending, eight course coordinator classes, 157 future course coordinators, and eight training officer courses, with 232 future training officers attending. Bureau staff processed 173 grant applications, resulting in \$3.6M in grant Distributions to EMS provider agencies across the state.

RURAL SERVICES

The Bureau conducted a research study on Rural EMS across the state. Bureau staff collaborated with stakeholders through a series of meetings and a survey to develop an overall assessment of the rural EMS system. Bureau staff completed an extensive review of patient care records, trauma, stroke, and cardiac data, as well as billing and financial data, to establish a data-supported view of the rural EMS system. The project resulted in a white paper assessment of the EMS system in rural Utah.

CROSS-TRAINING TROOPERS

Historically, the UHP had dealt with multiple medical related issues at the Utah State Capitol without any licensed EMS personnel and relied solely on responding local agencies. An effort was undertaken by UHP stakeholders, the State Medical Director, and Bureau staff to train, equip, and license UHP personnel to respond to medical emergencies at the Utah State Capitol.



BUREAU OF FORENSIC SERVICES

DIRECTOR AMY NEWMAN



NATIONAL INTEGRATED BALLISTIC INFORMATION NETWORK (NIBIN)

The crime lab continues to work with federal partners at the Department of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms (ATF) provide timely investigative information on gun crimes to federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies within the state through the NIBIN Program. NIBIN technology is an automated way to screen ballistic evidence for potential associations. Fired cartridge cases from crime scenes and test-fired cartridge cases from recovered firearms are imaged and entered into the NIBIN system. Within hours, the images are correlated against a national database, and a list of potential matches is ready for review by a trained analyst. If a possible match is found, a lead is issued, which could indicate that the same weapon was used in two or more crimes. During 2024, the crime lab expanded its NIBIN services in the northern and southern laboratories, bringing those services closer to rural counties. Overall, the crime lab screened over 3,000 items of evidence, completed 2,307 NIBIN acquisitions, and issued 131 leads during that same time period. The program relies on close coordination between law enforcement agencies, the crime lab, Statewide Information & Analysis Center, ATF, and prosecutorial entities to help remove violent offenders from the community.

Top Drug Submissions

1. Fentanyl (31.8%)
2. Methamphetamine (17.1%)
3. delta-9-THC (from marijuana) (9.3%)
4. No controlled substances (8.4%)
5. Cocaine (5.0%)
6. Buprenorphine (4.1%)
7. Psilocyn 4.1%
8. Heroin (3.8%)
9. para-Fluorofentanyl (3.4%)
10. Marijuana (1.9%)*

* The crime lab's marijuana leaf technician program eliminates most of the marijuana submissions to the laboratory.

Utah Bureau of Forensic Services performs analysis to identify any suspected drugs within a sample obtained by law enforcement. During 2024, the crime lab issued over 3,000 reports to law enforcement, with a median turnaround time of 10 days from item submission. Also of note, approximately 33% of all samples submitted to the crime lab in the first half of 2024 tested positive for fentanyl. This is a significant change and increase from previous years.

LATENT PRINTS

The crime lab's latent print section has assisted the Medical Examiner's Office in 121 cases involving the identification of deceased persons. This provides information to investigators and answers to families. Additionally, the latent print section has issued over 580 forensic reports to law enforcement agencies statewide.



CRIME LAB OVERALL

The Utah Bureau of Forensic Services provides comprehensive forensic analysis of physical evidence from crime scenes and crime-related incidents submitted by federal, state, county and municipal criminal justice agencies. During 2024, the crime lab issued over 8,200 reports to law enforcement agencies across the state.

The laboratory also successfully completed a full reaccreditation of all laboratory services and expanded the scope of services to rural counties to include NIBIN services at the northern laboratory and NIBIN and DNA services at the southern laboratory. It is anticipated that DNA analysis will be online at the southern lab within the first quarter of 2025.



CRIME SCENE RESPONSE

The crime lab provides expert crime scene response assistance on major crimes to any law enforcement agency within the state. The lab is passionate about providing these services to help ensure the successful prosecution of those responsible for the crime. During 2024, the lab's crime scene response team assisted 18 agencies across the state on 23 violent crime scenes.



DNA ANALYSIS

The Biology Section of the crime lab continues to positively impact public safety by expanding services and providing timely serological and DNA analysis. The implementation of probabilistic genotyping and Y-STR analysis has been an important contributor to public safety. These methods are particularly helpful in cases where there is a complex mixture of DNA, or there is a small amount of degraded DNA.

Advances in technology and the increased sensitivity of instrumentation have been key factors in solving current and cold cases. The biology section issued over 1,800 case reports in 2024.

COMBINED DNA INDEX SYSTEM (CODIS)

CODIS is a tool enabling federal, state, and local forensic laboratories to exchange and compare DNA profiles electronically, thereby linking crimes to each other and known offenders. All 50 states, including the District of Columbia, the federal government, the US Army Criminal Investigation Laboratory and Puerto Rico participate in CODIS. As of February 2024, the national CODIS database contained 17 million offender profiles, 5.3 million arrestee profiles, and 1.3 million forensic profiles, resulting in over 698,000 CODIS hits.

In 2024 in Utah, over 9,000 offender and arrestee samples were collected, and more than one CODIS hit was generated every day. CODIS is impactful in both current cases and cold cases. For example, early in 2024, an unknown perpetrator killed a woman in her place of business. The crime lab processed and analyzed evidence from the scene, which ultimately resulted in a CODIS hit, thereby identifying the unknown suspect and leading to his quick apprehension. The suspect in this case was a serial violent offender. Additionally, in 2024, a cold case homicide was solved in Utah because there was a CODIS hit to an arrestee in another state. The person was arrested on a qualifying charge in that state, his DNA was acquired and entered into CODIS, and the DNA profile hit a forensic DNA profile entered from a homicide crime scene in Utah.

COMMUNICATIONS BUREAU

CAPTAIN TRAVIS TROTTA

RADIO SYSTEM
UPGRADE

The statewide P25 radio system is now running across the entire state! This meant big changes: every Dispatch Center got brand-new radio consoles, all 164 radio towers were upgraded (including 25 brand-new ones), and every first responder, state road maintenance worker, and local public works team received upgraded radio gear. That's about 25,000 users! P25 is a national standard that makes it easier for everyone to work together during emergencies or natural disasters. Plus, for the first time, the DPS radio system now shows the GPS location of each radio whenever someone transmits.

BY THE NUMBERS

These stats show the entire bureau's workload for 2024 and the commitment to meeting the best standards and practices required for a PSAP in Utah.

Calls for Service - 773,098 (These account for incidents called into dispatch via 911 or non-emergency and officer-generated.)

Radio Logs - 4,589,341 Every radio call into and out of dispatch

Traffic Stops - 188,506

911 Calls - 63,066

Non-emergency calls - 423,356



9-1-1 EVOLUTION: KEY UPGRADES AND INNOVATIONS

The 9-1-1 system has seen significant updates and improvements over the past year, keeping up with rapidly evolving technology. Here's a quick rundown of what's new:

New Systems Implemented:

- Exacom Logging Recorder
- US Digital Fire and Medical Paging System
- Central Square CAD2CAD
- GEO Validation with mapping and updated CAD screens
- ProQA for Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) and Emergency Fire Dispatch (EFD)
- QPR (Quality Assurance Program)

Dispatcher Contributions:

- Evaluated, tested, and submitted critical information to implement new systems statewide.

Standardization and Quality Assurance:

- All DPS PSAPs now use ProQA, meeting national standards for emergency medical dispatching.
- 9-1-1 call quality assurance is outsourced for fair and objective evaluations of team training.

Statewide NG911 VESTA System:

- Enables text-to-9-1-1 functionality.
- Allows users to share locations, photos, and videos with 9-1-1 centers.
- These upgrades ensure dispatchers can handle evolving responsibilities more efficiently while improving emergency response capabilities.



DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (DEM)

DIRECTOR KRIS HAMLET



DECLARATIONS

Utah received one FEMA Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) Declaration for the Silver King Fire (Piute County) and five local disaster declarations, which were as follows.

San Juan (flooding)

- Grand (Moab) (flooding)
- Sanpete (Fountain Green) (flooding)
- Garfield (Panguitch Lake) (potential dam breach)
- Piute County (Marysvale) (potential debris flow from Silver King Fire burn scar).

GRANTS

Secured federal grants totaling over \$22M for state, local, and non-profit projects through the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG), Non-Profit Security Grant (NSGP), Hazard Mitigation grants, and Recovery grants.

EOC ACTIVATIONS

In 2024, there were eight State Emergency Operations activations:

- Changes between Daily Operations, Level 4 - Monitoring, and Level 3 - Enhanced Watch
 - Six natural hazard incidents:
 - Northern Utah Windstorm
 - 2024 Wildfire Season*
 - * *The State EOC remained active to support the wildfire season, including the four deployments to other states.*
 - Panguitch Lake Dam
 - Severe Weather in Southeast Utah*
 - * *One reception of a recovery resource from Oregon to Utah*
 - Silver King Fire
 - Yellow Lake Fire
 - Two Planned Event Activations:
 - 2024 Primary Election Day
 - 2024 General Election Day



OUTREACH INITIATIVES

Outreach and customer service are DEM's top priorities. They consistently communicate with the public and local officials about preparedness, grant opportunities, mitigation grants and assistance, recovery information and deadlines, and threats and hazard awareness.

- More than 10,000 people attended Be Ready Utah preparedness presentations and outreach events. Be Ready Utah conducted webinars and in-person training throughout the state.
- Utah Floodplain Management Program National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) - This year, the floodplain management program team conducted 11 training workshops, 54 community assistance visits, and provided 708 general technical assistance inquiries to our customer base. They also conducted a flood insurance basics training for insurance agents with a record 171 attendees. The state currently has 4,675 flood insurance active policies with \$1,412,554,000 in structure insurance coverage.
- Our community liaisons consistently meet with our Emergency Management partners in their respective counties. This partnership ensures that any issues/concerns are immediately addressed and resolved, and information is shared with DPS leadership on disasters or emergencies.
- Stakeholders were engaged in our rewrite of the State's Emergency Operations Plan. More than 16 different groups were engaged in this process to have their input on the state's response.
- The Post-Wildfire Mitigation Team met with community leaders in Marysville and Piute County to prepare for the possible cascading events following the Silver King Fire.
- A new program in our Mitigation Section called Direct Technical Assistance has offered 27 communities assistance with their Mitigation projects, plans, and risk assessments.

EMAC DEPLOYMENTS

DEM coordinated five Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) deployments in 2024. These deployments supported incidents in other states in their response efforts.

- Utah National Guard and Utah Highway Patrol teams deployed to Texas for border support.
- Two fire service task forces to Oregon, then re-routed to California.
 - Two fire service taskforces to backfill deployed taskforces to California.
- Two fire service task forces to California.
- One floodplain manager to Florida.
- One EMAC request received by Utah from Oregon for support in our public assistance program from a flooding disaster.

TRAINING AND EXERCISE

The Training and Exercise section supports emergency management-related training and exercises for more than 2,000 emergency management personnel, appointed and elected officials, affiliated volunteers, and other first responders annually.

In 2024, more than 80 FEMA training courses - training over 2000 emergency managers and responders. Supported 50 natural disaster exercises statewide.

DRIVER LICENSE DIVISION (DLD)

DIRECTOR CHRIS CARAS



SERVICE

DLD is one of the largest operations under the DPS banner in terms of staffing and physical footprint. The division employs hundreds of people statewide and provides services in 29 locations statewide. The Records and Administrative Services Bureau provides record management and customer support to customers outside field operations.

The Records Bureau's Customer Service section answered 233,369 calls and responded to 14,913 chats. The division also sent nearly 800,000 letters and processed 1,918 certified letter requests.

FIELD OFFICES

On average, statewide, the time required to complete a customer's service is six minutes and nine seconds. Considering more than a million customers were served in field offices in 2024, this represents DLD's ongoing commitment to providing exemplary service to the people of Utah. DLD issued 659,481 licenses and a little over 100,000 learner permits in 2024.

Statewide totals for tickets issued in our field offices:

Appt 564,514

Walk-in 498,005

Overall Total 1,062,519

The average wait time for those customers who had an appointment was 3 minutes. The average wait time for those who were walk-in or did not make an appointment was eleven minutes.

NEW WEB TOOLS
IMPROVE EFFICIENCYWEB PORTAL FOR SUBMISSION OF LAWFUL
PRESENCE DOCUMENTS

In November 2024, the Driver License Division (DLD) implemented a web portal to facilitate the submission of immigration documents directly from an individual or their attorney to the Driver License Division. The web portal will allow for the submission of immigration documents for approval through the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements program (SAVE) before coming into an office. Once the documents are approved through SAVE, the individual is notified to make an appointment to complete the licensing process. The SAVE web portal will reduce the number of trips to an office for the individual.

The web portal is currently in a pilot phase.

WEB PORTAL FOR SUBMISSION OF EVIDENCE
OF FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

In April 2024, the Driver License Division implemented a web portal that allows the Insurance industry to submit financial responsibility evidence to DLD. The financial responsibility document is imported directly into the division's licensing system. This portal increases the efficiency, accuracy, and timeliness

EMPLOYEE
DEVELOPMENT

DLD acquired a new Learning Management System (LMS) and software to create training, training videos, and a tracking system. The new software and LMS will allow the division to create training to increase staff productivity and knowledge. The division currently has committees working on career development succession training. Development of this training and utilization of the LMS will increase the knowledge and effectiveness of DLD staff.

KNOWLEDGE TESTING IN MULTIPLE LANGUAGES

DLD has a program authorized under statute that permits refugees, approved asylees, covered humanitarian parolees, and other individuals who have a lawful presence in the United States to take the knowledge exam in their native language. This is authorized when testing for the original or the first renewal of a driver license. Currently, DLD offers 13 languages on the testing kiosks. DLD recently acquired a translation device that allows the collection of statistics for office transaction languages. These stats will assist in determining additional languages that can be added to the testing kiosks. DLD aims to add languages each year that are targeted to the demands. This is the first year utilizing the translation device. By utilizing this tool, DLD will have enough information by the end of 2025 to determine what additional languages are needed.

The following languages are available, both written and audio, on testing kiosks in all office locations:

| | |
|------------|------------|
| Arabic | Swahili |
| Dari | Spanish |
| Portuguese | Mandarin |
| Chinese | Vietnamese |
| Somali | Tongan |
| Ukraine | Korean |
| French | Tagalog |

OUTREACH

DLD, in conjunction with The Road Home-Gail Miller Resource Center, has been participating in a pilot program to assist unsheltered individuals in obtaining an identification card.

DLD also participated in multiple Public Safety/Driver License resource fairs this past year. The division answered licensing and documentation requirements questions and provided resources such as handbooks, appointment information, and immigration document assistance.



FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE (FMO)

STATE FIRE MARSHAL TED BLACK



ADMINISTRATION

The FMO supports all sections and provides customer service to internal and external customers. Through processing all licenses, certifications, and billing, they make it a point to be friendly, professional, and helpful to anyone calling or visiting our office. They receive many calls that must be referred to other agencies. the standard practice is to explain why the caller needs another agency and provide them with that contact information whenever possible. The FMO works with fire departments on incident reporting to ensure accurate data is collected. They provide training, answer questions, and generate needed reports. Local departments often have out-of-the-ordinary questions, and the FMO does all they can to get them an answer or get them to someone who can help. "That's not our job" is not part of their vocabulary.

The FMO is also working to streamline processes to support better customer service, which includes updating the invoicing program, providing online payment options, and conducting online renewal testing. They are also adding other online services as they become available.

PLAN REVIEW SECTION

A team of four Deputies/Engineers complete reviews for various disciplines (Fire and Life Safety, Fire Protection/Fire Sprinkler, and Fire Protection/Fire Alarm) and projects statewide for all new or remodel work where public funds are used for construction, all healthcare facilities, and other projects in smaller jurisdictions that request assistance. In addition, Deputy Fire Marshals are regularly consulted by Owners, Developers, Architects, and Engineers regarding proposed and planned work. They routinely assist other Building and Fire Officials/Fire Marshals with their concerns and issues.

As Utah has experienced unprecedented growth, the FMO had a "banner" year in 2024. Plan reviewers have reviewed 1191 plans this year, a significant accomplishment. Working to better serve customers, a 10-day turnaround on all submitted plans was achieved 90% of the time, the highest standard in the state for plan review.

PROPANE & LIQUEFIED PETROLEUM GAS (LPG)

Propane

We have teamed up with the Rocky Mountain Propane Association to arrange Propane Emergency Response training with fire departments and other emergency response agencies. This training provides classroom and hands-on training, educating them on propane properties, what to expect, and how to respond most safely. We involve local propane companies in the training, which helps them in their training programs and builds relationships with local responders.

Liquified Petroleum Gas (LPG)

We work to perform inspections and interact with owners and their employees, educating them, providing options to address inspection issues identified in the inspection reports, and offering assistance as needed.

The LPG Section continues to use our training prop, training emergency responders on safe operations when responding to an LPG tank emergency. This prop impacts statewide and provides fire service, law enforcement, and industry training. In addition, the section inspected 629 LPG sites and 54 LPG cylinder exchange sites, responded to 5 LPG incidents, and reviewed 102 plans for LPG installation.

INSPECTION AND FIRE INVESTIGATION

The FMO Inspection/Investigation Section works to be part of the development team on every project. The goal is to assist customers in completing projects promptly and safely. They work with customers to ensure compliance with the fire codes by educating them on the construction requirements and providing assistance in completing the projects. They also help customers understand the intent of the fire codes for risk reduction in buildings with routine inspections. During fire investigations with local fire and police departments, staff is encouraged to work with the entities and help them understand many of the unique science indicators of a fire investigation scene; this builds a local knowledge base to help identify the need to preserve areas of scenes and what to look for. Investigators also perform as fire experts in cases involving criminal actions; the investigation service is available at any hour of the day.

The eight inspectors with the investigations section inspected 1087 schools, 486 State buildings, 305 fire alarm systems, 463 fire sprinkler systems, and 185 fires/explosions. The Investigations team also coordinated with the Plan Review Section to gain detailed information and clarifications on projects.



HIGHWAY SAFETY OFFICE (HSO)

DIRECTOR ROBYN LALUMIA



PUBLIC PARTICIPATION & ENGAGEMENT

Utah Highway Safety Office has always had strong relationships with community partners. To meet new federal requirements for Public Participation and Engagement (PP&E), Utah identified specific communities or populations that are overrepresented in the crash data or are underserved. Cedar City was identified as a rural community with the highest total crashes related to teen driving, accounting for 31.56% of incidents—10.4% higher than the statewide percentage. Distracted driving, speeding, and unrestrained drivers were also contributing factors.

The HSO invited local law enforcement to partner with them to host a listening session with community members where meaningful conversations could be had, and the public could voice their concerns and make suggestions. The forum was held at Southern Utah University on October 17, 2024. The event brought together residents, officials, and partner organizations to discuss challenges and solutions, focusing on Iron County's high crash rates and teenage driver incidents. In an open-house format, attendees shared concerns and marked maps, and over 200 people completed surveys highlighting distracted driving, speeding, and pedestrian safety as their main safety concerns. Public suggestions included increased enforcement, road design changes, and education campaigns. Preferred communication channels like social media and billboards were also noted for future outreach efforts.

Feedback from the forum will guide upcoming HSO-funded initiatives to reduce crashes and improve safety in Cedar City. Strengthened partnerships and community input remain central to these efforts.

DRIVE SOBER CAMPAIGNS

Utah's efforts to combat impaired driving are showing encouraging results, as recent trends reveal both challenges and progress in addressing DUI-related incidents. In State Fiscal Year 2024, there were 11,440 DUI-related arrests statewide, a 2% increase from the previous year. This rise reflects intensified enforcement, with HSO-funded DUI overtime shifts worked by law enforcement agencies increasing by 3.25%.

Despite the uptick in arrests, the most critical metrics -crashes and fatalities involving alcohol and drug-positive drivers- are trending downward. The HSO set an ambitious goal within its performance measures to reduce alcohol and drug-positive driver-related fatalities by 3% over three years. When analyzing five-year data trends, preliminary data as of October 24, 2024, indicates notable progress: alcohol-positive fatalities have dropped by 9.73%, and drug-positive fatalities are down by 12.59%.

This success is driven by increased enforcement and public awareness efforts, partly due to UHP's addition of 80 new troopers statewide. High-visibility enforcement and HSO's innovative campaigns, like "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over," have educated the public on the risks of impaired driving, ultimately reducing crashes and saving lives.

The HSO's continued focus on behavior change, enforcement, and education makes roads safer and sets the stage for further progress in eliminating impaired driving.

CONNECT TO PROTECT: UTAH'S CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY CONFERENCE

On October 8-9, 2024, Utah's Child Passenger Safety (CPS) technicians gathered for the expanded two-day "Connect to Protect Conference." Hosted by the Utah Department of Public Safety's Highway Safety Office (HSO) and supported by local and national partners, the event empowered over 250 certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians (CPST) to enhance their skills, expand their knowledge, and strengthen their commitment to protecting Utah's youngest passengers.

The conference addressed a pressing issue—over 60% of car seats are installed or used incorrectly. It offered a range of workshops, hands-on training, and expert-led discussions. Key topics included the latest child restraint research, advanced installation techniques, and innovative strategies to educate diverse communities. A highlight was a panel featuring local CPS technicians sharing insights on engaging Utah's underserved diverse populations, including the Navajo Nation, refugee communities, and Hispanic families.

Media coverage extended the conference's impact by promoting actionable safety tips for parents. At the end of the conference, the technicians hosted a car seat checkpoint. Local parents were invited to make appointments for a free seat check. Dozens of families benefited from hands-on safety education or a free child safety seat if they needed one.

This year's expanded format was a resounding success. By growing to two days, technicians had more time to earn recertification CEUs and attend additional classes addressing critical non-CEU topics. Attendees also benefited from dynamic keynote presentations by experts from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and Safe Kids Worldwide, who provided cutting-edge tools and strategies to reduce child injuries and fatalities in car crashes. The HSO improved conference logistics, speaker lineups, and session variety, which received high praise from attendees.

CRASH RESPONDER SAFETY

The Highway Safety Office was proud to support the 2024 Crash Responder Safety Week (CRSW) on November 18-22, with the theme: "Responders Ahead! Reduce Your Speed As You Proceed." This nationwide campaign highlights the need to slow down, stay alert, and move over to protect traffic incident responders and road users.

To amplify CRSW messages, the HSO programmed new National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) funds for media and production costs to raise awareness statewide. The HSO produced five educational videos demonstrating driver best practices, the consequences of violating the law, and other messages calling for the community to move over for responders. The HSO invited state and local organizations to collaborate in promoting responder safety and protecting those who risk their lives to keep our roads safe. Leaders from the Unified Fire Authority, EMS, Taylorsville/Bennion Public Works, UDOT, UHP, Honoring Heroes Foundation, and the Utah Towing Association all supported a press conference.





INCREASE IN STAFFING CAPACITY

The team has been actively expanding and optimizing resources to meet the growing demand for POST services. The Basic/Inservice Training Team assesses time management and redistributes workloads to balance staff demands. The Investigations Team made significant progress by hiring two investigators and achieving a record 174 case closures in 2024, up from 103 in 2023. The Curriculum Team added an instructional designer, leading to updates of over 30 hours of curriculum within six months and overseeing the Instructor Development Program, which trains 400+ instructors annually. They've also utilized adjuncts to bolster capacity despite limited staffing, ensuring continued delivery of high-quality training and services.

INVESTIGATIONS

- Complaints Received: 393
- Cases Opened: 154
- Cases Closed: 181
- Voluntary Relinquishments: 27
- Cases Presented to POST Council: 77
- Revocations Issued: 16
- Suspensions Issued: 48
- Letters of Caution: 15

TEAM SKILLS AND QUALIFICATIONS

POST aims to foster individual growth, improve team performance, and streamline operations across various teams through ongoing professional training, certifications, and improved processes, enhancing team skills and adopting modern best practices and qualifications.

Implementation highlights include:

- Basic/In-Service Training Team: Improved training consistency, process efficiency, and team roles; implemented new programs like Outward Mindset and Easy Drift Training.
- Firearms, Physical Fitness, and K9 Teams: Focused on specialized certifications and event participation.
- Defensive Tactics: Expanded instructor training and recertification programs.
- Investigations Team: Modernized training content and added specialized roles.
- Curriculum Team: Introduced hybrid programs, professional mentoring, and supported staff academic growth.
- The efforts collectively aim to create a more skilled, cohesive, and effective workforce while aligning training and practices with modern standards.





TRAINING STATISTICS

8 SFO/LEO Sessions

- 188/193 SFO Certificates Issued(97% Graduation Rate)
- 263/275 LEO Certificates Issued(96% Graduation Rate)

Dispatch Sessions

- 85/91 Graduated (93% Graduation Rate)

Satellite Training

- 19 BCO Sessions: 492 Graduated(93% Graduation Rate)
- 18 LEO Sessions: 237 Graduated(92% Graduation Rate)
- 31 SFO Sessions: 631 Graduated(82% Graduation Rate)

POST IN-SERVICE CLASSES

- 2 DT Instructor Courses (106 Participants)
- 1 DT Recertification Course (20 Participants)
- 6 POST EVO Basic Courses
- 5 Satellite EVO Basic Courses (117 Participants)
- 2 EVO Instructor Schools (102 Participants)
- 3 Firearms Instructor Courses (60 Participants)
- 11 Firearms Recertifications (73 Participants)
- 5 K9 Schools (93 Graduates)
- 1 K9 Supervisor School
- 3 K9 e-collar Classes
- 113 Other POST In-Service Classes (2,698 Participants)

APPLICATIONS

Total: 1,230 (102 Average/Month)

- 725 Satellite Academy Applications
- 505 POST Academy Applications
- 85/130 Waiver/Reactivation Applications(65% Certification Rate)
- 101 Dispatcher Applications

BASIC TRAINING PRODUCTIVITY

In 2024, POST set out to increase its capacity in Basic Training. To accomplish this, POST developed procedures to facilitate continuous process evaluation, optimizing their limited resources while tracking and measuring outcomes and enhancing efficiency. This is all in addition to facilitating a culture of continuous improvement.

The training team has been making great strides in several key areas. They've implemented trackable safety briefing protocols, ensuring every step is monitored and secure. In addition, they've developed a dashboard to analyze academy performance for both POST and Satellite Academies, keeping everything streamlined.

They've also introduced rigorous audit processes to maintain high standards. These include checks on instructors, curriculum, admin tasks, processing times, testing, and skill areas like PT, defensive tactics (DT), and firearms.

When it comes to hands-on learning, the team is all in. Scenario-based training is now a major focus, with new programs to track cadet participation. Patrol/Pedestrian Stop scenarios have jumped from none to 6-8 per cadet, and Traffic Law Class now has 3 hours of real-world practice. Scenario Days give cadets 4-6 chances to act as the lead officer, a fantastic opportunity for real-world experience.

Finally, they've integrated DT skills into scenarios and switched from simulation rounds to blanks, making training more realistic and effective. Overall, it's clear they're committed to making training safer, smarter, and more practical for cadets.

The Curriculum team has been busy leveraging tech and improving efficiency across the board! They've tapped into the Canvas learning management system to deliver curriculum more effectively, streamlining how materials are shared and accessed. Policy acceptance has gone digital, too—no more paper; everything's now submitted electronically.

In a smart move for collaboration and security, they've teamed up with the Investigations Bureau to track cases securely using the Acadis system. They've also designed new competency-based training software to simplify skills development and instructional material management.

And here's a cool upgrade—safety briefings now include QR code-based acknowledgments, making the process quicker and more efficient. It's all about smarter workflows and better tools to keep everything running smoothly!



DIVISION GROWTH

In 2024, SBI focused on growing the division's professional capabilities. Following the 2024 Legislative Session, SBI was allocated seven investigative positions for the Alcohol Enforcement Section. Four of these positions (one Sergeant and three investigators) were designated to address the targeting of minors with illegal tobacco, nicotine, and vape products. The remaining three positions were funded to address "compliance-related" concerns. Despite this significant increase in manpower over the past three years, SBI still faces considerable challenges in recruiting and hiring agents.

In 2024, SBI achieved exceptional success through the SAKI program. The Byrne Discretionary Community Project grant enabled advanced DNA testing for 9 of the 17 Cold Cases reviewed through Utah's Cold Case Board in 2024. Without this grant funding and the expertise of the SAKI team, many cases would not have been resolved. This funding also paved the way for the Utah Medical Examiner's Office to begin conducting advanced DNA testing on its Unidentified Human Remains, which had not been done previously.

Under the vision and direction of Chief Kotter, Lt. Jensen, and the Sexual Assault Kit Initiative group applied for and were awarded a \$2.5 million grant to fund a full-time Cold Case Unit at DPS. The grant is expected to fund one full-time genetic genealogist, a grant/site coordinator, and two full-time sworn investigators. Local law enforcement agencies often lack the resources to dedicate investigative efforts to solving cold cases. With this funding, the unit will provide investigative assistance to Utah's law enforcement agencies and the Utah Cold Case Board.

MAJOR CRIMES

This section continues to excel in providing specialized investigative services to Utah and allied law enforcement agencies. Notably, the investigation of a homicide on Interstate 80 near Grantsville, UT, in Tooele County led to the successful arrest of one suspect, with further investigations into other possible parties. This case involved investigative work in Utah, Nevada, Washington, and California. Significant leads came from LPR data, but most importantly, good old-fashioned police work. These agents were able to locate valuable evidence based on tracking down leads, conducting interviews, reviewing surveillance footage, serving warrants, conducting geo-fence investigations, and pouring over cell phone tower data. Ultimately, the culmination of this work led to the identification and arrest of the suspected perpetrator in Washington. The efforts of each member of Section 23 are deserving of recognition. Beyond high-profile cases, they are actively engaged in day-to-day investigations involving sex assaults, public corruption, officer-involved critical incidents, and assisting the Utah Department of Corrections and Juvenile Justice and Youth Services (JJYS).

ALCOHOL ENFORCEMENT TEAM



In 2024, despite additional manpower from the State Legislature, the Alcohol Section operated at a 44% vacancy rate due to recruitment and hiring challenges. Nonetheless, Section 22 carried out significant enforcement efforts that undoubtedly saved lives from impaired driving and over-service.

In November of 2024, the Alcohol Enforcement Team conducted an Underage and Fake ID operation on a DABS licensee in Salt Lake City. This operation followed a multi-month investigation into DUI arrests of minors coming from bars in the Sugar House area. During the operation, 24 officers from SBI (20 Agents) and the UHP (4 Troopers) issued 186 citations over four hours for underage consumption of alcohol. The team recovered 50 fake IDs (many others were suspected of being destroyed before they could be seized), and six 17-year-old minors were discovered in the bar. This operation highlighted the issue of underage drinking and the use of fake IDs to gain access to bars. It garnered national attention and was reported by the Associated Press. Utah's Legislature has expressed interest in this operation and is seeking more information on the ease with which juveniles can purchase fake IDs virtually indistinguishable from real IDs.

Additionally, the Section established a fifth crew to address illegal nicotine, vape, and THC products sold by general licensees and specialty shops. This group of four officers has significantly impacted the State's understanding of illegal sales. Through testing, they discovered that many registered products with the Department of Health contain controlled substances and are not legally sold, even if listed in the State's registry of approved products. Since July, they have executed four major search warrants on retail establishments, seizing thousands of illegal products. The volume of evidence seized has raised concerns among State Evidence Technicians regarding storage capabilities.

Currently, flavored vapes are allowed in specialty shops, but beginning in January 2025, only tobacco or mint-flavored vape products will be permitted. Once this law is in effect, Section 22 plans to conduct state-wide training for local and county law enforcement agencies on enforcement tactics and the new law.

NARCOTICS

Section 24 Narcotics performed exceptionally well, managing multiple high-level, long-term cases and conducting suppression operations along the Jordan River Trail in Salt Lake City. In 2024, this section began a full-time suppression effort along the Jordan River Trail after approximately eight months of part-time efforts assisting Salt Lake City with its Downtown Safety Initiative (DSI). The Community Engagement Team was reassigned from the SIAC and Threat Management Unit to Section 24 in May. Since then, Section 24 has allocated at least 11 full-time agents and investigators to clear the Jordan River Trail of criminal activity and drug dealing. This effort has been phenomenally successful, transitioning from a suppression operation to a holding and rebuilding operation in December.

Their exceptional performance earned them the prestigious Drug Task Force of the Year award from Rocky Mountain HIDTA, which recognizes only one of the task forces in the region, including Colorado, Montana, Utah, and Wyoming.

Section 24 Narcotics also received the DPS Meritorious Achievement Award, given to only one division or group within DPS each year. This award recognizes not only the accomplishments of one year but also acknowledges the long-standing efforts to improve public safety. SBI Narcotics has been actively combating the harmful effects of illegal drugs in Utah since 2017, reaching new levels of success in recent years. Their citations and awards are well deserved.



24/7 OPERATIONS

In 2024, the SIAC marked a transformative milestone by completing its first full year of 24/7 operations, significantly enhancing its ability to provide immediate and reliable support to law enforcement across Utah. This has greatly improved the state's capacity to address public safety threats in real-time, offering tactical leads and integrated tools like License Plate Reader (LPR) and CAD technologies. Throughout the year, SIAC processed a substantial number of law enforcement requests, including facial recognition inquiries for diverse crimes and critical school threat data. Additionally, the center has deepened its focus on combating cybercrime, organized crime, and targeted violence while supporting the Utah Fentanyl Task Force to fight the illegal distribution of fentanyl. These advancements reflect SIAC's commitment to equipping law enforcement with the insights and resources needed to effectively address evolving public safety challenges.

AIDING LAW ENFORCEMENT

Over the course of the year, the SIAC handled an impressive 12,300 requests from law enforcement. They also processed 1,097 additional facial recognition requests tied to 44 different types of crimes. This year, the SIAC integrated License Plate Reader (LPR) and CAD technologies to help detect crimes as they happen.

THREAT MANAGEMENT UNIT

The SIAC's Threat Management Unit investigated 165 threat cases, including those targeting elected officials and government operations. Through the Crime Gun Intelligence Center, data-driven strategies were used to address gun-related crimes, investigating 114 cases and supporting 141 NIBIN leads. The Cybercrimes team, working with the FBI, handled 25 cybercrime cases.

ORGANIZATIONAL GROWTH

The SIAC remains committed to its strategic mission of fostering a supportive and dynamic work environment by prioritizing employee growth, satisfaction, and operational excellence. SIAC implemented a feedback survey based on the Governor's customer engagement initiatives, that highlights the positive impact of employees' work, with results consistently reflecting positive or extremely positive sentiments. This year, three new positions were created, promoting internal candidates and reinforcing career advancement pathways. SIAC also continues to embrace hybrid remote work options, balancing in-office collaboration with flexible arrangements. To enhance morale and teamwork, SIAC organized several "SIAC Socials," including an end-of-year celebration recognizing outstanding peer-nominated contributions. Additionally, the organization continues to invest in career development by sending analysts to various conferences and training programs to further develop their skills.

ENHANCED THREAT REPORTING AND EVENT SUPPORT

In 2024, the SIAC received 1,048 crime tips, 351 of which were categorized as Suspicious Activity Reports (SARs). The SIAC also processed 39 threat-to-life notifications from the FBI. Additionally, SIAC received 167 school threats so far this school year, averaging 3.5 per week since 2023. A significant advancement came in December 2024 when SIAC integrated SafeUT data to improve situational awareness of school-related threats, with 23 tips received during the first month. SIAC also provided 30 Utah Special Event Assessments and collected 236 event submissions in partnership with federal agencies, further strengthening public safety efforts.



OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

In 2024, the SIAC provided critical support to various task forces, including School Safety, Domestic Violence, the Cybersecurity Commission, the Grid Resilience Committee, and the Fentanyl Task Force. Notably, the Utah Fentanyl Task Force worked closely with law enforcement and public health officials to address illegal fentanyl distribution. The SIAC also expanded its efforts against cyber threats, organized crime, and targeted violence by enhancing threat data capabilities. It produced 251 intelligence reports, threat assessments, and crime bulletins covering topics such as cybercrime, gang activity, school safety, and terrorism. A highlight was the graduation of 34 officers from over 10 agencies in the newly launched Cyber Liaison Officer Program, and one of their analysts was recognized nationally for their work with Suspicious Activity Reporting. Additionally, SIAC collaborated with local agencies on cold case investigations, solving 17 cases—9 of which were aided by SAKI Grant-funded DNA testing. The SIAC was one of the first DPS divisions to redesign their DPS website this year, providing professionalism, clarity, and improved customer service for the public.

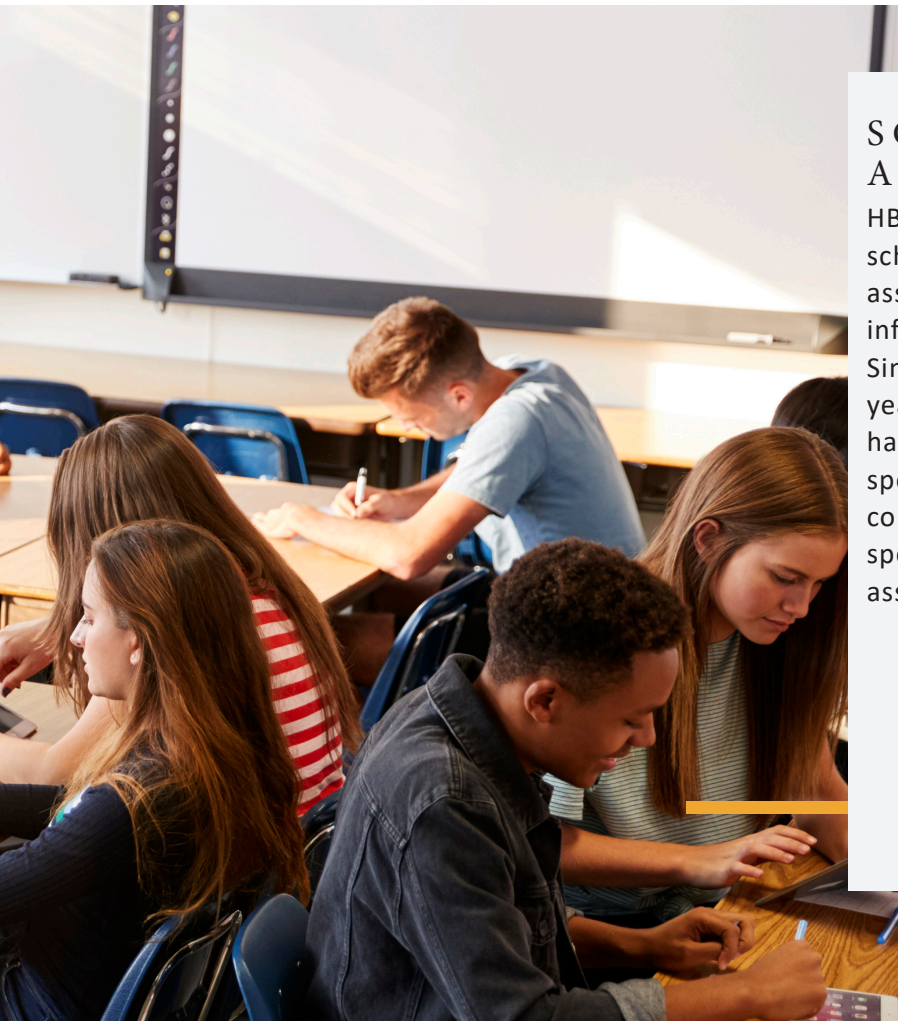


SCHOOL SAFETY AMENDMENTS

During the 2024 legislative session, state legislators passed HB84, which was enacted in May 2024. HB84 introduces several safety and security measures that will be required for all public schools moving forward, which include:

- Annual safety and security needs assessment done by the safety and security specialist in collaboration with law enforcement.
- Wearable panic alert devices for every classroom.
- Secure or limited points of entry for schools.
- Ballistic glass or security film for all entries and instructional areas.
- Fencing around playgrounds.
- Video surveillance on all entrances and surrounding grounds.
- A guardian for every school or adjacent campus.
 - Can be an SRO, armed school security officer, or a school employee who satisfies all necessary requirements.

DPS has established administrative rules to clarify and help guide these implementations while researching technology and best practices, engaging with key stakeholders through meetings, and soliciting suggestions from members of the Education Advisory Board.



SCHOOL SAFETY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

HB 84, passed in 2024, requires that every school complete a school safety needs assessment, which is used to identify infrastructure capabilities and vulnerabilities. Since the beginning of the 2024-2025 school year, 554 school safety needs assessments have been submitted. Our regional training specialists have been involved in assisting county security chiefs and school safety specialists in conducting nearly 300 of those assessments since September.

OUTREACH

Representatives from the division have been presenting and collaborating statewide with relevant stakeholders; including sheriffs, chiefs, superintendents, charter directors, and school safety and security directors. As local education and law enforcement agencies face unique challenges they implement new school safety legislative requirements, our team is available to answer questions and help come up with creative and innovative solutions.

BY THE NUMBERS

- Met with key stakeholders from all counties and school districts.
- Partnered with the School Safety Center to conduct two Town Hall meetings with over 1,000 combined attendees.
- Hired 8 regional training specialists from a pool of nearly 80 nationwide applicants.
- Trained nearly 50 new School Resource Officers in NASRO Basic.





TROOPER ENFORCEMENT

UHP sworn staff conducted over 306,972 traffic stops on Utah roadways, increasing all five areas of enforcement emphasis to reduce fatal crashes in 2024.

| | |
|------------------------------|---------|
| • UHP Contacts | 306,972 |
| • DUI Arrests | 3,480 |
| • Seatbelt Contacts | 13,425 |
| • Wrong Way Drivers | 313 |
| • Speeding Contacts | 116,337 |
| • Over 100 MPH | 4,480 |
| • Reckless Over 105 | 1,745 |
| • Crashes investigated | 17,754 |
| • Fatal Crashes investigated | 103 |

MOTORCYCLE SQUAD

Motors is a specialized, highly trained, and self-motivated group of professionals consisting of one full-time coordinator and 26 additional motor officers. They provide unique opportunities for focused and strategic enforcement with a desire to reduce traffic collisions, injuries, and deaths throughout the state. They accomplish this through proactive enforcement, public education, and inter-agency training. They also provide professional and dignified traffic escort services for special and high-profile events.

- Motor Stops: 12,196
- Car Stops: 12,004
- Speed Citations: 13,477
- Seat Belt: 2116
- DUI: 175
- Equipment: 2780
- Reckless: 136
- Distracted: 885
- 50 Motor Details/Escorts



K9 & CRIMINAL INTERDICTION TEAM

The UHP Criminal Interdiction Team consists of 10 highly trained interdiction officers and seven part-time interdiction officers. Criminal Interdiction and Narcotics K9 troopers spend their shifts conducting high-visibility traffic enforcement as part of the UHP's proactive enforcement goals to interdict subjects involved in criminal activity. Five explosive K9s were added and assigned to the Utah State Capitol. They provide physical security to the state government's legislative, executive, and judicial branches. They assist with explosive sweeps and conduct evidence searches throughout the state.

Fentanyl Pills- 120,729
Fentanyl Powder- 2.75 LBS
Methamphetamine- 505.49 LBS
Cocaine- 33.1 LBS
Marijuana- 3119 LBS
THC Cartridges- 12,701
Heroin- 24.66 LBS
Psilocybin- 188 LBS
Illicit Currency- \$922,846
Guns- 46
Endangered/Exploited Persons- 10

RECRUITMENT & RETENTION

Recruit and retain the highest qualified candidates while enhancing all employees' knowledge, skills, and abilities to meet the current and future challenges and opportunities facing the Utah Highway Patrol. The Utah Highway Patrol will effectively represent the communities of Utah and will be better prepared to meet the ever-increasing demands of "Keeping Utah Safe."

- The UHP has implemented an aggressive recruitment strategy that has been used as a model by other state agencies. UHP has undergone an 8-week recruitment cycle that allows for six recruitments a year. In 2024, UHP hired 81 new troopers, our largest group of new hires since 2016. During the past five years, UHP has hired 275 new Troopers.
- UHP hired full-time background investigators to increase effectiveness and timeline in hiring sworn staff.

AERO BUREAU

The DPS Aero Bureau regularly deploys for state, local, and federal agencies needing help in inaccessible search and rescue missions, high-risk law enforcement missions, and emergency management citizen safety missions. In 2024, we saw a 6.8% increase in our flight missions statewide. In 2023, our Aero Bureau saw a 39% increase in total missions statewide, with both bases fully operational.

- **Flown Mission** 947
- **LE Mission** 523
- **Arrest** 478
- **People Rescued** 284
- **People Hoisted** 160

SPECIAL OPERATIONS

The Utah Department of Public Safety provides statewide services through its Specialized Emergency Response Team (SERT), Public Protection Unit, and Dive Team. These teams deliver critical support and expertise to safeguard Utah citizens and assist local law enforcement agencies in complex and high-risk operations.

- **Dive Team Ops** 11
- **SERT Team Ops** 24
- **PPU Ops** 20

COMMERCIAL MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY PROGRAM

Work with internal and external partners and stakeholders to advance commercial motor vehicle safety through effective engagement, enforcement, education, and partnerships. Reduce traffic collisions, injuries, and deaths on Utah's roadways through increased awareness and adherence to commercial vehicle safety standards.

COMMERCIAL

INSPECTIONS: 8,948
112% above goal

LEVEL 1, 2, 4

INSPECTIONS: 4,916
164% above goal

LEVEL 3, 5-7

INSPECTIONS: 4,032
81% of goal

MISC DATA:

- **Section 15 completed 640 School bus inspections.**
- **Post-crash Safety Inspections: 130**
- **Section 15 provided 50 outreach safety classes to the trucking industry.**



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