



Public Service Commission of West Virginia

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For Immediate Release

Date: February 19, 2015

Inspections in “High Crash Areas” Make West Virginia Roadways Safer

The Public Service Commission of West Virginia has announced first quarter results of the \$180,000 Increased Commercial Enforcement (I.C.E.) grant it received last fall from the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration to increase inspections of commercial motor vehicles. The Commission’s Transportation Enforcement Division conducted 1,523 commercial vehicle inspections between October 1 and December 31, 2014. Nearly a third of those inspections were funded by the I.C.E. grant, occurred in off hours and resulted in 40 vehicles being taken out of service for equipment safety violations. Violations included faulty brakes, lights, tires and steering mechanisms, poorly secured loads and improperly labeled hazardous materials. Twenty-four drivers were taken off the road for various reasons, including not having valid medical certificates.

The overtime funded by the federal grant enables the PSC’s officers to concentrate their attention in off hours on roadways that have been identified as high crash areas. “The ability to provide enforcement during non-typical work hours and days beyond our normal scope of operations is critical to reducing speeds and improving driving behaviors,” said Bob Blankenship, a manager in the Transportation Enforcement Division.

“Traffic will increase during the spring and summer as the weather gets better. The officers will be able to ramp up their inspections even more during those months,” Blankenship said. “Our goal is to make West Virginia’s roadways safer for the traveling public and to save lives.”

The grant for the I.C.E. patrols and inspections is funded through September 2015.

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