



Public Service Commission of West Virginia

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PSC Performs More than 3,000 Commercial Vehicle Inspections in Latest Quarter

The Public Service Commission of West Virginia has announced that during the most recent quarter, its Transportation Enforcement Officers conducted 3,292 commercial vehicle inspections on 10 highways designated as high crash areas, a 58% increase over the number of inspections conducted in those areas during the same quarter last year. Of the inspections performed last quarter, 2,068 – or 63% – were made possible by funding from the Increased Commercial Enforcement (I.C.E.) grant the Public Service Commission received last fall from the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration.

The grant-funded inspections were conducted primarily during off hours. As a result of these inspections, 211 vehicles were taken out of service for equipment safety violations such as faulty brakes, lights, tires and steering mechanisms, poorly secured loads and improperly labeled hazardous materials. Officers conducted 1,842 checks for alcohol and controlled substances, and cited drivers for 502 speed violations and 68 seatbelt violations.

As a result of the overtime funded by the federal grant, PSC officers were able to increase their presence during non-typical hours on roadways that have been identified as high crash areas. “We planned to concentrate the majority of the grant’s funding in the third quarter, which covered the time of year when traffic is heaviest on West Virginia’s highways. The increased presence of the officers contributed to reduced speeds and improved driving behaviors of commercial drivers,” said Bob Blankenship, Director of the Transportation Enforcement Division.

“The tangible result of this federal grant is that more inspections have led to more violations being discovered and addressed,” Blankenship said. “Having the ability to increase our presence in this way has made West Virginia’s roadways safer for the traveling public and has, no doubt, saved lives and property.”

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

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