



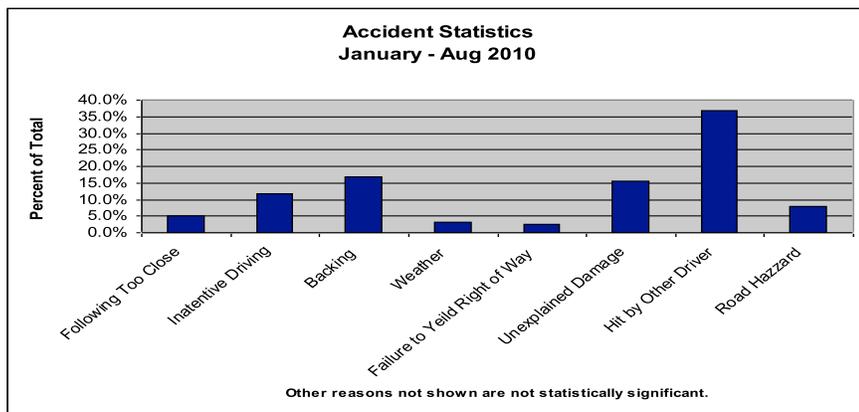
## FROM THE DIRECTOR: HURRICANES/FLOOD WATERS:

We are now approaching the hurricane season. Please remember that it is the agency's responsibility to insure that vehicles are not left in flood prone areas during storms which may cause flooding. Agencies are responsible for the costs associated with flood damaged vehicles. For Richmond area agencies, if a flood is forecast for the area we will accept as many vehicles as can be accommodated. These vehicles will be accepted on a temporary basis since our property, located on Leigh St, usually does not flood.

## Safety Update

The chart below depicts accident statistics for vehicles owned by the Commonwealth for the current year to date. As you can see there is good news and bad. The good news is 37 percent of the reported accidents were the fault of the other driver. The bad news is Commonwealth drivers were responsible for 45 percent of the vehicle damage.

We have discussed distracted driving repeatedly and with good reason. Most of these accidents can be attributed to distracted or inattentive driving. Fortunately, we do not have any serious personal injury to attach to these accidents. However, they do account for



\$226,045.07 in monetary damages. This money could be better spent on other agency projects or improvements.

Recently, we have also noted there is an increase in unexplained damage being reported to the VMCC. This indicates daily inspections are being performed.

inspections. By reporting the damage early you are helping us repair the damage before it gets worse and more costly. Thank you for your assistance.

Some parking tips which may help us reduce this damage can be as simple as asking ourselves one question before we park our vehicle. What can happen if I park in this spot? By identifying potential hazards we can develop a strategy for elimination. These tips below may help:

- Always try to park in well lit areas with unobstructed views of your vehicle. This is for your safety, as well as for the vehicle.
- Try to avoid spots between large vehicles. Some drivers may not be as skilled at maneuvering in a parking lot.
- Avoid parking next to a dumpster or loading dock where large vehicles may be in operation.
- Park only in authorized parking spots and ensure your vehicle is between the lines.

If you have any additional recommendations or suggestions we welcome them.

send them to [kevin.crain@dgs.virginia.gov](mailto:kevin.crain@dgs.virginia.gov).

## Proper Tire Inflation

We have noticed an increase in tire failures attributed to under-inflation. Fortunately they have only resulted in pre-mature tire replacement and not personal injury. Proper tire inflation increases safety, tire longevity and fuel efficiency as well as reducing vehicle emissions.



Under inflated tires require longer stopping distances due to improper road contact. This condition is exaggerated when the roads are wet. Additionally, handling can also be affected. Premature tire failure and possible blowouts can be expected when vehicles are continually operated with under inflated tires.

Congressional mandates have required auto manufacturers to install tire monitoring systems on all vehicles manufactured after 2008. Some vehicles manufactured prior to 2008 also have these systems. They signal when a tire's pressure falls 25 percent below what is recommended by the vehicle manufacturer. While these sensors help, they should not be expected to replace performing a monthly tire pressure check.

When performing this check you should also perform a visual inspection of the tire for damage. Don't forget, always perform this check when the tires are cold and remember the spare. If something looks suspicious, please contact the VMCC (866-857-6866).

The manufacturer recommended pressure for your vehicle can be found in the owner's manual. It is also found in the driver's door jam or fuel door on many vehicles. The numbers on the tire are maximum pressure and should not be used.