



NIGHTINGALE LANDS—The emergency helicopter, the Nightingale, landed at Chowan Hospital to transport a critically ill patient to Norfolk General Hospital. Photo by Clay Roberts.

Hopes For A Safe And Merry Christmas For All Travelers

CHARLOTTE, NC—It is estimated that 31 persons will lose their lives and 1,600 will be injured in motor vehicle accidents in North Carolina over the upcoming Christmas and New Year's holidays.

The state will count its toll from 6 P.M. on Thursday, December 23, through midnight Sunday, December 26 for Christmas; and from 6 P.M. Thursday, December 30 through midnight Sunday, January 2 for New Year's.

Last year 12 were killed and 841 injured over Christmas holidays, while 4 were killed and 811 injured over the New Year's holiday. In 1980 there were 19 killed over Christmas and 18 killed over New Year's holiday.

"The Christmas and New Year's Holiday period is a particularly appropriate time to focus our attention on the critical problem of drinking drivers," motor club president John G. Frazier, III said. "Traditionally a time of family reunions, friendly gatherings and good cheer, the Holiday Season is also, tragically, a time of large increases in the number of serious injuries and fatalities on the roadways."

"It's a Drinking/Driving World," Frazier said. "Approximately 75% of all U.S. drivers drink and most of them drive occasionally after drinking. Yearly, Americans chug along in excess of 275 million gallons of hard liquor; 1,600 million gallons of beer and ale; and 170 million gallons of wine and champagne," Frazier continued.

Alcohol-related motor vehicle accidents kill well over 400 North Carolinians every year and injure 20,000, and these figures are growing. North Carolina ranks third, behind California and Texas in total number of drunken driving arrests.

"Alcohol" refers to ethyl alcohol. Ethyl will be a companion to a large number of drivers as they attend the increased number of social functions which normally occur over the Christmas and New Year's Holiday period. She frequently finds herself in a position of power behind the steering wheel as the parties progress. Drink by drink the blood alcohol level mounts, and by mid-evening the driver's judgment may be clouded and he will be instilled with false confidence that will make him feel that no feat is beyond his power and ability. Unfortunately, he will apply this confidence to his ability to drive himself, and his friends home. One tenth of one per cent doesn't sound like much, but it's dynamite! This tiny percentage of alcohol can turn a good driver into a highway menace. It makes him seven times more likely to have an accident than if his Blood Alcohol Concentration were zero. And if his BAC gets up to .15 per cent, his chances of crashing are 25 times greater! Don't let ETHYL Drive!

If you're hosting a party in your home, or having a drink or two with friends at a public bar, there may be times when one of your friends has too much to drink. If this should happen, offer to drive him home, invite him to spend the night with you, or call a cab. Friends Don't Let Friends Drive Drunk. Sometimes extreme measures are necessary, but they are worth it and you can count on the gratitude of your friend when he's had a chance to sober up and think more clearly.

Napoleon is supposed to have been terrified of shaving.



SAFE—This youngster and thousands more in North Carolina have been riding safer since the state's Child Passenger Safety Law went into effect, requiring children under age 2 to be safely restrained while riding with their parents in family-type vehicle. But more than half the state's young children still ride unrestrained, increasing the chance that they will die or be injured in an accident. The Highway Safety Research Center at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill suggests giving a safety restraint as a gift for Christmas or another occasion to help your young loved ones have a happy—and safe—new year.

Arson Awareness Campaign Endorsed In N.C.

RALEIGH — The North Carolina Arson Awareness Council has endorsed a statewide public education campaign to make citizens more aware of the high cost of arson to the economy and what citizens can do to combat the crime.

N.C. Department of Crime Control and Public Safety Secretary Heman R. Clark chairman of the council, said, "This effort is essential to get people involved in the fight against the crime of arson."

"Arson is a growing problem in this state as well as the nation, and the economic cost and threat of fire to our citizens are terrible. The only way we can stop it is to get our citizens involved in reporting the crime when they have knowledge of a purposely set fire," he said.

A draft plan for the public education campaign presented to the council by

staff envisions a year-long event using multimedia techniques and the involvement of a variety of organizations to get the message out.

"We will approach the state's insurance agents, chambers of commerce, fire departments, merchants bureaus and Community Watch organizations to coordinate the local components of a statewide awareness campaign," said Ken Farmer, executive director of the State Fire Commission and secretary of the Arson Awareness Council.

"Media material such as slide shows bumper stickers window cards for stores radio and television announcements and billboards will be prepared," he said.

"This material will emphasize the problem arson is in North Carolina," Farmer said, "and encourage people who have knowledge of a

fire of suspicious origin to call our special arson telephone number."

Haywood Starling, director of the State Bureau of Investigation and a member of the Arson Awareness Council, said he hoped the number could be manned 24-hours a day in a short while. Currently the number is manned during the daylight working hours and answered by a machine at other times. The number — 1-800-662-7610 — is toll free and can be called from anywhere in the state.

"We also will prepare a firefighter's handbook on arson and the preservation of evidence from a deliberately set fire," Farmer said. "It's important that firefighters think about preserving evidence before they fight a fire especially fires where they suspect arson. They receive training in this; but there is nothing current which they can review, such as this proposed booklet."

Farmer said the estimated cost of the campaign was about \$42,000. This would have to be raised from various sources and the amount raised would govern the extent of the campaign. "We might not be able to buy all we have outlined in the draft proposal," he said.

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NOTICE

The board of Chowan County Commissioner's 1983 Meeting Schedule.

First Monday of each month in the Commissioner's Room of the courthouse on Broad Street.

January	9:00 A.M.
March	9:00 A.M.
May	9:00 A.M.
July	9:00 A.M.
September	9:00 A.M.
November	9:00 A.M.
February	8:00 P.M.
April	8:00 P.M.
June	8:00 P.M.
August	8:00 P.M.
October	8:00 P.M.
December	8:00 P.M.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

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