



Media Release

Victoria State Emergency Service

Victorian Headquarters • 168 Sturt Street, Southbank Victoria 3006

Take a break and arrive alive this Easter

From: Victorian Headquarters

Date: 16 March 2016

Time: 10 am

This Easter long weekend, hundreds of Victoria State Emergency Service (VICSES) and Lions Club members will take time out from their holidays to make sure drivers get to their holiday destinations safely.

Over 40 Driver Reviver sites will operate across Victoria this Easter weekend from Thursday 24 March through until Tuesday 29 March.

For over 25 years, Driver Reviver has been a national campaign with one objective: to reduce road collisions by alleviating driver fatigue.

Driver Reviver sites offer free tea, coffee, biscuits and more to help motorists rest and refresh in a staffed and safe environment.

Today, VICSES has 152 volunteer units throughout the state, with 102 accredited to perform Road Rescue, making the VICSES the largest Road Rescue operator in Australia.

In the past year, VICSES volunteers were called to attend 917 road rescue incidents across Victoria. Ten of these were across the last Easter long weekend (2015).

“So far in 2016, we’ve had 68 fatalities on Victorian roads. That’s up 28.3% from the same time last year*. That’s 68 people who won’t be celebrating Easter with their families this year” said VICSES Chief Officer Operations Trevor White.

“With an estimated 22 per cent of drivers admitting to momentarily falling asleep at the wheel, it is important to remember to take a break every two hours when driving.”

“Easter is a particularly busy time on our roads and I ask all Victorian drivers to take special precautions when travelling through the state this long weekend,” he said.

“It is always more gratifying for SES volunteers to have a friendly chat and serve you a cuppa at a Driver Reviver site than be faced with the trauma of cutting you out of your vehicle after a collision.”

If you’re taking a trip over Easter, visit a Driver Reviver site to take a break. For more information and a full list of sites and their operating hours, visit: www.ses.vic.gov.au/driverreviver

Tips for a long car journey:

- It is critical before leaving on long trips to be well rested
- Plan trips so that you will stop at least every 2 hours; 15 minutes is a good break
- Share the driving with someone else
- Don't let the temperature inside the car make you drowsy
- Keep the radio or music at a low level; loud music can interfere with concentration
- Be flexible, if you feel you are getting tired, don't wait, find somewhere safe and have a quick nap

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* Road Toll figures correct from 10 March, 2016. Provided by Transport Accident Commission (TAC)
at <https://www.tac.vic.gov.au/road-safety/statistics/road-toll-year-to-date>

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Note to editor:

More information including images, audio and video can be found at: ses.vic.gov.au/media-resources

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