



# Beat the Heat, Inc

## Organization Information and Rules

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## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

Beat the Heat, Inc. is a national non-profit organization comprised of First Responders and their supporters who conduct educational programs using marked emergency vehicles as drag race cars, trucks, and motorcycles to gain the interest of the public. Heat members develop programs and activities to serve their individual communities using the Goals of Beat the Heat, Inc as a guide.

### **GOALS OF BEAT THE HEAT, INC.**

1. To **Educate** the young people of our communities about the problems of illegal drug and alcohol use and the horrors of alcohol or drug impaired driving.
2. To **Encourage** young people to stay in school and be an achiever in life.
3. To **Promote** a better understanding between First Responders and the communities they serve.
4. To **Educate** the general public about Drag Racing and encourage everyone to race on the dragstrip NOT IN THE STREET.

A member of Beat the Heat, Inc (BTH) must be an active, retired, volunteer or reserve First Responders or sponsored by one and willing to educate the community of the dangers of illegal drugs and alcohol and impaired driving. Heat members present programs free of charge to groups of all ages in schools, churches, community activities and displays. Programs conducted by BTH members range from the Staying in School and the Value of an Education, Dangers of Drugs and Alcohol Abuse, Impaired and Distracted Driving, Stranger Danger, Fire Safety and Combating Illegal Street Racing.

BTH members have an opportunity to closely interact with the community to make a personal connection and promote a better understanding of each other. It gives the public the opportunity to see that First Responders are more than just authority figures ... they are real people dedicated to serving their communities.

Beat the Heat, Inc has been growing since its start in 1984 with programs all across the nation as well as teams in Canada, Puerto Rico, and Australia. Beat the Heat, Inc. is a non-profit corporation recognized as tax exempt by the IRS under Section 501(c)(3) of the IRS code. ALL donations are tax deductible. Each member conducts their program by using personal funds and donations from sponsors. Although supported by local public safety agencies, tax dollars do not fund this organization.

## **A History of Beat the Heat, Inc.**

The original Beat the Heat program was started by Sgt. Don Robertson of the Jacksonville, Florida Sheriff's Department in 1984.

In 1990, Senior Corporal Mac Sibley of the Dallas Police Department brought the program to Texas with the help of the Duncanville Police Department. The program started with 2 cars in 1990. In 1991, it expanded with a 3<sup>rd</sup> car from the Sulphur Springs, Texas Police Department.

In 1992, the volunteer police officers incorporated the program receiving tax-exempt status from the IRS under Section 501(c)(3) of the IRS Code. The program also received tax-exempt status from the Comptroller of the State of Texas. That year the program grew to 5 cars.

In 1993, the program grew to 18 cars representing 15 Police Agencies around the State of Texas. Ten officers from the Houston area formed a Gulf Coast Beat the Heat Division. In 1993, the officers participated in over 40 events around the state where they were in direct contact with over 50,000 young people.

In 1994, the program grew to over 25 cars and the Heat Teams participated in over 50 events contacting almost 100,000 young people. It also won a prestigious Criminal Justice Award from the Texas Attorney General's Office for its work with young people in the Prevention Category.

In 1995, the program grew beyond the borders of the State of Texas with over 35 officers and cars representing 30 Police Agencies in Texas, Oklahoma, and Louisiana. The 1995 Schedule of Events grew to over 100 different events around the country by the end of the year. There were 41 participants in the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Beat the Heat Challenge at the Texas Motorplex and over 6,000 spectators were in the stands. This was the largest spectator crowd to ever attend a regular Saturday night bracket race in the history of the Motorplex. Easily, half of the spectators were young people. *That's what we are all about.*

Through the end of the 90s and into the 2000s, Beat the Heat has continued to see steady growth in membership, events and programs. Heat members have participated annually in approximately 1,000 events including school and church programs, parades, civic and community events, public displays and races. They have driven approximately 500,000 miles and contacted in excess of 1,500,000 kids each year! The organization continues to grow and now have members all over the nation, Canada, Puerto Rico, and Australia.

## **Beat the Heat partners with NHRA**

In 2003, Beat the Heat, Inc began a partnership with NHRA (National Hot Rod Association) in the NHRA Youth Education Services Program (Y.E.S.). The Y.E.S. Program encourages young people to explore the possibilities of careers in drag racing, the military, drag racing support services and public service. Heat Teams display their cars at the Y.E.S. Programs and interact with approximately 5,000 young people at each NHRA event. With the support and encouragement of Wally Parks, co-founder of NHRA, BTH has increased its participation at the NHRA Events.

In 2009, Beat the Heat was invited to not only work in the Y.E.S. Program but Heat Teams display on the Manufacturers Mid-Way at each of the NHRA National Events. NHRA also named Beat the Heat as one of their Charities in the Community and recognizes BTH as the “go to” organization to combat illegal street racing. Heat Teams work with their local drag race tracks to set up Street Legal Programs and encourage people to not race on the streets. ***Street Racing is NOT Drag Racing... Take it to the Strip!!!***

## **Beat the Heat in the Media**

After becoming a partner with NHRA in 2003, Beat the Heat has been featured in the NHRA National Dragster magazine. Heat Teams appeared on numerous ESPN televised NHRA National Events and on NHRA Today.

Beginning in 2008, Heat Teams were seen on SpeedTV shows PINKS, PINKS All Out, and PINKS All Outtakes.

In October 2008, a group of Heat Members were invited to San Antonio Raceway to participate in the popular SpeedTV game show, Pass Time. Eight Heat members were chosen to be contestants on the Law Enforcement Week Episodes of Pass Time debuting in February 2009 ... and two Heat members won beating the Pass Time “House” representative, Ken Herring. Ten Heat members and their cars were participants in the “Beat the Heat” episode of Pass Time where civilians competed guessing the ETs of the Heat cars. The Pass Time show gave Beat the Heat great exposure. The Heat members on Pass Time are recognized while out in public.

## **Beat the Heat Johnny Lightning Cars**

*Big things come in small packages...* is a phrase that describes Beat the Heat Johnny Lightning collectible cars. Johnny Lightning miniature collectible die cast cars have been produced for 40 years and they have partnered with Beat the Heat to produce a line of the 1/64 scale Heat cars. The first Heat Johnny Lightning cars debuted in November 2009, they are now beginning production again on more of the Heat cars.

## **Beat the Heat Funding**

All funds come from donations from Heat Members, sponsors, individual donors and fundraising. Since ALL participants are volunteers, over 98% of all funding goes directly to operate the program. Funding is needed for just about everything. Heat Teams need pamphlets, pictures, trading cards, t-shirts, caps, and any other items that can be handed out to kids. It is very important that they have something to remind them of our message.

The Beat the Heat program will promote several BTH National Challenge racing events around the country each year, as well as many regional race events. Heat teams race each other for the title of Top Cop on the dragstrip and talk to kids in the track pits about the program. In the fall of each year, the organization holds the Annual BTH World Championship Event which coincides with the BTH Annual Business Meeting. All the BTH members that participate in these events volunteer knowing that there are NO monetary prizes. They come at their own expense just to try to make a real difference for the kids. The volunteer Heat members of the program drive approximately 50,000 miles each year to participate in all types of events. We DO NOT charge a fee for our appearances. We rely totally on donations.

Beat the Heat Members are responsible for keeping track of their personal contributions to the Beat the Heat program, as well as contributions and donations from their sponsors and the public. Heat members complete and send quarterly reports to the BTH National Office noting personal contributions, sponsor donations, miles traveled, and number of people reached so we can document our effectiveness. Beat the Heat, Inc reports to the IRS annually noting the donations to the organization and both Heat members and sponsors receive a Letter of Donation to a Non-Profit for their contributions for tax purposes. Heat members will receive instructions and forms used in the reporting process after joining the organization. Heat members are solely responsible for their expense tracking, reporting, and record keeping. Beat the Heat, Inc only reports what is reported as donated to the program to the IRS.

Heat Teams make a difference for many young people and do it very economically, spending less than One Dollar per child. Although there are some administrative costs, the administrative expenses amount to less than 2% of the entire budget. Beat the Heat makes every effort to keep administrative expenses at a bare minimum.

### **Beat the Heat Racing**

Although drag racing comprises only about 10% of the activities of the Heat Members, the marked emergency drag race cars are a critical part of our program. The thing that sets Heat cars apart from other racing vehicles is that they are marked and look like emergency vehicles. Although there are other vehicles involved with the BTH program such as funny cars, motorcycles and junior dragsters; most BTH members cars are marked are emergency vehicles. **It is essential that Heat cars be clearly marked with decals and working emergency lights to indicate that it is part of the program.** Not all Heat cars are drag cars... some cars are set up for displays, parades, etc and do not race.

### **DRIVER REQUIREMENTS FOR BTH DRAG RACING**

1. The driver of the Drag Racing Car **MUST** be an active, retired, volunteer or reserve First Responder or be sponsor by a current BTH member.
2. The driver must possess a NHRA or IHRA license if required and all safety equipment that is required for respective ET Hanicap class. These requirements are specified in the current NHRA Rule Book.
3. All driver participating in this program **SHOULD** be a member of NHRA and have an NHRA number affixed to their car according to specifications in the current NHRA rule book. This may be a licensed number (SST/SG/SC, etc) or an ET Bracket number. There are many benefits to a membership in NHRA that are advantageous for the purposes of the program. Having an NHRA Permanent number helps to avoid confusion during a racing event
4. All drivers and crew members will consider participation in these events as an on-duty assignment and conduct themselves accordingly. **THE USE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES BY ANYONE CONNECTED TO THE BTH PROGRAM WILL NOT BE ALLOWED.** The use of alcohol **WILL** cause a great deal of negative publicity for the program, it s sponsors and the agency represented by the car. Heat members are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner and be a positive role model.
5. Any member found to be participating in Illegal Street Racing will be removed from the BTH program immediately.

## **SPECIFICATIONS FOR DRAG RACING IN BEAT THE HEAT, INC EVENTS**

### **1. BODY**

Vehicles must be painted and marked similar to an Emergency Vehicle and have a working emergency light system. “Door Slammer” styles are **REQUIRED**. Full-body Funnycars may participate but **NO** Roadsters or Rail Dragsters will be allowed to compete in these Challenge events. Each car should also have a NHRA/IHRA permanent number affixed to the car according to specifications in the current NHRA/IHRA Rulebook.

A marked motorcycle class may also be ran. Bikes must also be marked and have at least one (1) working emergency light properly attached to the machine and easily visible to spectators.

### **2. HEAT VEHICLES MARKINGS**

Beat the Heat vehicles should look like Emergency Vehicles. This is what sets Heat vehicles apart from other race cars. Sponsor logos and contingency decals should be at a minimum. Heat members that race in regular competition where contingency money is paid may have contingency decals on their vehicles. However, to maintain the appearance of a marked Emergency Vehicle, the contingency decals should be kept to a minimum.

### **3. CHASSIS / DRIVELINE**

Each car’s chassis **MUST** meet the safety technical requirements specified in the current NHRA/IHRA rule book for their ET category. Any engine combination that is allowed by NHRA/IHRA rules for ET Handicap Racing is permissible. This includes virtually any engine. Remember the Safety Requirements in the current NHRA/IHRA rulebook apply.

### **4. ELECTRONICS**

Throttle stops hooked to timers that provide a high-speed top end charge **WILL NOT** be allowed as this has proved to be an unsafe practice. Throttle stops will be allowed but there will be **ABSOLUTELY NO OVERRIDES**. Once a throttle stop is engaged it **MUST** remain engaged for the remainder of that pass.

### **5. FUEL**

**Any fuel and/or additive that is legal for an NHRA/IHRA ET Handicap category may be used including gasoline, racing gasoline, diesel, alcohol and nitrous oxide. NHRA/IHRA does NOT allow the use of nitromethane in ET handicap racing. Those using nitrous oxide are reminded to check on NHRA/IHRA safety regulations, licensing and certification requirements for their ET category.**

#### **6. TECHNICAL INSPECTION**

**Technical inspection will be done according to the current NHRA/IHRA rulebook and all car MUST PASS that inspection. Remember, NHRA/IHRA has specific safety requirements that will be checked during technical inspection. Read the NHRA/IHRA rulebook, become familiar with those rules, and make sure your car will pass TECH.**

#### **7. SPONSOR LOGOS**

**Sponsor logos can be displayed on Heat cars. Sponsors must meet professional standards and may not be tobacco, alcohol or related companies. Heat members must be conscious of the image they are promoting, and all sponsors should follow that image.**



## **Benefits of Beat the Heat Membership**

- Beat the Heat, Inc is incorporated and receives a tax-exempt status from the IRS under Section 501(c)(3) of the IRS code. All monies BTH members and sponsors spend to promote the goals and participate in the events of Beat the Heat, Inc are tax deductible. Each member is totally responsible for their expenses/donations and must keep receipts and documentation. Beat the Heat, Inc ONLY REPORTS the total of donations to the IRS. Individual members and sponsors should consult their personal accountants to determine the IRS permitted amount of their donations.
- Tax statements of contributions are provided to each person donating to the program at the end of each year provided that the Members' Reports are received no later than the Dec 25 due date.
- Resources are available for every member to use in developing their individual local Beat the Heat program. BTH members share their resource information and ideas with all members.
- Statistics of the scope and effect of the BTH program are available for the members to use when contacting sponsors and donors.
- The National Office of BTH will coordinate and help develop activities and races for the State Chapters and provide assistance to obtain maximum exposure and participation in all events.
- Monthly newsletter highlighting Beat the Heat news, events and schedule. The newsletter will be available for download on the BTH website.  
[www.beattheheatinc.org](http://www.beattheheatinc.org)
- A BTH website Member Message Board (Forum) is available for members. Instructions on how to access the BTH Members Only sections of the website will be sent following acceptance as a BTH member.
- BTH offers a corporate Facebook page that can be share with the community. There is also 2 private Facebook pages; one for Members Only and one for Family and Friends.
- Comradery with First Responders across the organization and personal satisfaction gained from helping the community.

## **BTH Membership Structure:**

According to the Beat the Heat, Inc By-Laws and Articles of Incorporation, the Executive Board of the Beat the Heat, Inc will conduct the business of the organization. The Executive Board serves for a term of 2 years with no term limits. The election of Officers is conducted at the BTH Annual Meeting held in conjunction with the BTH World Finals Event.

- **Executive Board:** President, Vice-President, & Secretary/Treasurer
- **State Chapters:** Groups of BTH members in each state may form a State Chapter to further the Goals of BTH within their state.
- **Full Members:** First Responders (active, retired, reserve, volunteer) or persons sponsored by current BTH member or an agency. These members must have and use a vehicle marked as an emergency vehicle (or in the process of building one) to educate the public about the dangers of alcohol, drugs, distracted driving, illegal street racing and the importance of staying in school. They also have a corporate vote.
- **Associate members:** Persons dedicated in the program, but do NOT have a qualified BTH car. They do not have a corporate vote.

## **Member and Associate Member Responsibilities:**

- Pay annual dues and complete a renewal form. Renewal due each January.
  - Full members \$65 a year if paid by Jan 30<sup>th</sup>; \$75 after
  - Assoc members \$45 a year if paid by Jan 30<sup>th</sup>; \$55 after
- Establish a Beat the Heat Program in their community
- Report expenses and donations quarterly to the National Office for recording
- Abide by the principles of the Beat the Heat Program at all times