

Ohio Investigative Unit



MEDIA RELEASE



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OIU agents remind football fans and permit holders of Ohio's alcohol laws

(Columbus, Ohio) - - Many Ohioans are excited about the upcoming football season and are beginning to dust off their tailgating gear. However, the Ohio Investigative Unit is reminding Ohioans that it is illegal to consume alcohol in a public place, including parking lots surrounding stadiums.

“Whether your favorite college or professional team is playing on Saturdays or Sundays, we encourage fans and liquor permit holders not to lose sight of Ohio’s liquor laws,” says OIU Commander Captain Gary Allen.

Agents may cite tailgaters with open container if they see obvious and apparent alcohol, as well as cans and liquor bottles in trash cans or on the ground. Anyone cited for an open container violation is subject to a maximum \$150 fine.

Agents will be looking to make sure liquor permit holders are not serving to underage and intoxicated individuals. They will also be checking to see if permit holders are only selling alcohol and allowing patrons to consume alcohol inside the permitted areas.

If anyone under 21 is caught drinking, in possession of or sharing in the cost of alcoholic beverages; if someone is caught furnishing alcohol to anyone under 21; or using or in possession of fake identification, each have criminal implications. Liquor permit establishments may also face administrative penalties, as well.

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The Ohio State Highway Patrol's Ohio Investigative Unit agents are plain-clothed fully sworn peace officers. OIU is charged with enforcing the state's liquor laws and is the only state law enforcement agency specifically tasked with investigating food stamp fraud crimes. Agents also investigate tobacco violations. Follow OIU on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Ohio-Investigative-Unit/165782203506269> and on Twitter by logging onto http://twitter.com/Ohio_OIU.