



MEDIA RELEASE

Criminal Justice Services

Ohio Criminal Justice Services • Karhlton F. Moore, Executive Director
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DESIGNATE A SOBER DRIVER THIS JULY 4th HOLIDAY

ODPS Reminds Everyone that Law Enforcement is Cracking Down on Drunk Driving

COLUMBUS – As many Ohioans prepare to join in the celebration of the upcoming July 4th holiday the Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS) reminds those taking part in festivities that law enforcement will be out in force looking for drunk and impaired drivers as part of the national *Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over* crackdown.

Last year, the July 4th holiday weekend resulted in 26 fatalities on Ohio's roads – 9 of those fatalities were alcohol-related.

"July 4th is a time most people spend celebrating with family and friends, but it is also one of the year's deadliest times on our roadways," Thomas P. Charles, ODPS Director said. "It is important that everyone takes the appropriate steps and plans ahead to ensure a safe return home."

This July 4th holiday, law enforcement agencies across the state will be increasing patrols, conducting sobriety checkpoints and saturation patrols, as well as concentrating on speed, aggressive driving and motorcycle safety. During this time, law enforcement will be logging more than 4,500 hours of enforcement through federal grants provided by ODPS' Office of Criminal Justice Services. The Ohio State Highway Patrol will have a visible presence on the state's highways and Ohio Investigative Unit (OIU) agents will be doing compliance checks in liquor permit establishments, as well as working with local law enforcement to target over-serving and underage drinking. ODPS recommends the following simple precautions for a safe holiday:

- Designate a sober driver; arrange in advance with a family member or friend who knows you will be calling for a ride home; or call a cab.
- If you see someone about to drive impaired, take the keys and help him or her find a safe alternative.
- If you see an impaired driver on the roadway, call law enforcement immediately. Call #677 on state highways.
- Always buckle up – it's still your best defense against impaired drivers.
- Bar or establishment owners or employees with questions about over-serving or other liquor-permit related issues should contact OIU. Contact information is online at: <http://investigativeunit.ohio.gov/>.

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ODPS works to reduce deaths and injuries on Ohio's roads through the coordinated efforts of all of its Divisions. The Ohio Investigative Unit enforces liquor, tobacco and food stamp laws in liquor permit premises and the Ohio State Highway Patrol enforces traffic laws. OCJS serves as the lead justice planning and assistance agency for the state. Through research, technology and grants, OCJS serves a wide variety of agencies committed to reducing and preventing crime across Ohio. OCJS coordinates and funds the efforts of DUI Task Forces and grants for local law enforcement and safety partners to combat impaired and unsafe driving and promotes educational programs, coalition-building efforts and campaigns focused on highway safety.