
JULY DWI MOBILIZATION: PRE-ENFORCEMENT NEWS RELEASE

O, SAY CAN YOU SEE? EXTRA DWI ENFORCEMENT THROUGHOUT JULY *Stepped-Up Impaired Driving Enforcement During Deadly Month for Alcohol-Related Crashes*

Scott County law enforcement officers and deputies will increase DWI patrols in July, one of the deadliest periods for impaired driving in Minnesota. The statewide impaired driving enforcement sweep covers the 4th of July holiday weekend and will include participation from more than 400 Minnesota law enforcement agencies. The state Department of Public Safety (DPS) coordinates the *Safe & Sober* campaign.

Over the last three years (2004–2006) in July, 67 motorists were killed in alcohol-related crashes and more than 10,000 were arrested for DWI.

“An effective route to stop impaired driving is through extra enforcement,” says Prior Lake Police Sergeant Greg Zollner. “Law enforcement is serious about taking impaired drivers off the road, and we need citizens to be serious about planning ahead for safe rides to avoid drinking and driving.”

In Minnesota, over 500,395 motorists have a DWI — one in eight with a driver’s record. A DWI can cost up to \$20,000 when factoring in increased insurance cost rates, legal and other fees.

In the last three years on Minnesota roads, 540 motorists were killed in alcohol-related crashes and more than 113,000 were arrested for DWI. In Scott County during 2004–2006, there were 2 impaired driving deaths and 1,245 DWIs. Of the impaired drivers and their passengers killed in alcohol-related crashes, over 70 percent were not wearing seat belts.

“Crash data shows the booze bone is connected to the no-belt bone,” says Sgt. Zollner. “These two mistakes result in hundreds of deaths each year.” Sgt. Zollner says officers will include seat belt enforcement during the nighttime DWI patrols to minimize risk of death or injury.

Scott County law enforcement departments are encouraging the use of “Designated Driver Gift Certificates” — which can be sent via email at www.minnesotasafeandsober.org. The certificates can be sent to friends to offer a safe ride for a night out, and call for the recipient to return the favor.

Safe & Sober is funded by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. The program is designed to reduce traffic-related fatalities and serious injuries.

Drunk Driving. Over the Limit. Under Arrest.