



Staying Safe this July 4th Holiday

Article provided by Virginia State Police, July 27, 2011, from Checkpoint Strikeforce July 4th Impaired Driving Enforcement Campaign

Planned your Fourth of July celebrations yet? Will it be a picnic, a visit to the beach or a boat ride on the river? Maybe you plan to visit family and friends to enjoy a cookout and some fireworks. Whatever your arrangements are - if alcohol is served, make sure your plans also include a designated driver.

WHY?

While the holiday is meant to celebrate our Nation's birth, unfortunately, it is considered one of the deadliest when it comes to alcohol-impaired traffic fatalities.

Take a look at the statistics for the Independence Day Holiday Weekend:

- In 2009, 410 people died in motor vehicle crashes across the country.
- The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) indicates 40 percent of those crashes involved drivers with a blood alcohol concentration or BAC of .08 or higher.
- In Virginia, state troopers arrested 152 individuals for drunk driving during the 2010 July 4th Holiday.

WHAT IS CHECKPOINT STRIKEFORCE?

Checkpoint Strikeforce is meant to deter individuals from getting behind the wheel and driving drunk. The anti-DUI campaign means increased sobriety checkpoints and law enforcement patrols starting in July and lasting until December. This means a sobriety checkpoint usually every weekend throughout the Commonwealth. The intense six-month initiative means a driver may never know where or when they may encounter a sobriety checkpoint.



IMPAIRED DRIVING – THE RISK, DANGER AND COST

If you drink and drive you could:

- ✓ Possibly injure or kill someone
- ✓ Lose your license
- ✓ Face possible jail time
- ✓ Pay high court costs, attorney fees, insurance premiums and towing fees

IT'S NOT WORTH IT.....

If you think someone may be impaired on the road you should:

- ✓ Call state police by dialing #77 while on the interstate
- ✓ Or dial 911 to reach local law enforcement

www.commonhealth.virginia.gov

The contents of the CommonHealth weekly emails may be reprinted from an outside resource in the area of health, safety, and wellness and is intended to provide one or more views on a topic. These views do not necessarily represent the views of the Commonwealth of Virginia, CommonHealth, or any particular agency and are offered for educational purposes. If you have questions or concerns about this article, please email us at wellness@dhrm.virginia.gov