



State of Illinois
Pat Quinn, Governor



Illinois Department of Transportation
Ann L. Schneider, Secretary

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CONTACT:
Paris Ervin 217.782.5025
Jac Miller 312.814.4693

IDOT, ISP, IDNR, Safety Advocates Warn of Crackdown on Drunk, Unbelted Drivers Over July Fourth Weekend *Stepped Up Patrols to Reduce Fatalities of Drivers, Passengers and Motorcycle Operators*

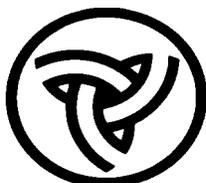
SPRINGFIELD – The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), Illinois State Police (ISP), Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Mothers Against Drunk Driving and other state and local law enforcement are reminding all motorists to drive sober this Fourth of July holiday or face severe consequences.

Through Sunday, July 6, the Illinois State Police, Illinois Secretary of State Police, and more than 320 local law enforcement agencies are joining IDOT in a crackdown on drunk drivers and drunk motorcycle operators. The crackdown features a strong reminder to motorists to “Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over” and “Click It or Ticket.”

This stepped-up effort around the July Fourth holiday weekend is intended to reduce crashes on Illinois roads during a key summer travel time, and to continue to hold the line on motor vehicle fatalities so far this year. Provisional IDOT data show 392 people have died in motor vehicle crashes through July 1, 2014, compared to 477 during the same timeframe in 2013.

“IDOT and law enforcement remind everyone this weekend that if you drink and drive in Illinois this Fourth of July, you will be caught,” said Tonya Loker, IDOT’s Director of Transportation Safety. “Whether driving a car or motorcycle, if you plan on drinking alcohol, designate a sober driver or find a safe way home BEFORE the party begins. Be responsible or risk a DUI.”

“The upcoming Fourth of July holiday means law enforcement statewide will be out on the roads enforcing laws to avoid tragic outcomes. To boost safety around the holiday weekend, the Illinois State Police enforcement efforts will focus on the Fatal Four - Speeding, Seatbelts, Distracted Driving and DUI,” said ISP Director Hiram Grau.



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“Alcohol use remains a leading cause of boating accidents, so don’t drink while operating a boat this holiday weekend,” said IDNR Director Marc Miller. “Staying sober is one of the best ways to keep yourself, your loved ones and others on the water safe.”

According to data from IDOT’s Division of Transportation Safety, 18 people were killed in motor vehicle traffic crashes during the 2013 Fourth of July holiday. Of those fatalities, six, or 33 percent, occurred in crashes that involved at least one driver or motorcycle operator who had been drinking. In the last five years in Illinois, 58 people were killed in motor vehicle crashes during the Fourth of July holiday period, and 50 percent (29) of those fatalities involved at least one driver who had been drinking.

Illinois Motor Vehicle Crashes during Independence Day

Year	Total Days	Crashes			Persons		Alcohol Involvement**		Average killed per day
		Fatal	Injury	Total	Killed	Injured	Killed	Percent of total killed	
2013	4.25	17	N/A	N/A	18	N/A	6	33%	4.24
2012	1.25	3	187	759	4	280	2	50%	3.20
2011	3.25	12	572	2,106	13	875	9	69.2%	4.00
2010	3.25	10	539	2,101	10	794	7	70%	3.80
2009	3.25	11	535	2,243	13	813	5	38.5%	4.00

**Crashes that occurred from 6:00 pm on the day before the first full day of the holiday period to 11:59 pm on the last day of the holiday period.*

***Fatalities resulting from crashes in which a driver had a Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) of 0.01 or greater.*

As part of the this year’s crackdown, local police and sheriff’s departments will be putting in thousands of additional patrol hours in the form of Roadside Safety Checks, seat belt enforcement zones and hundreds of saturation patrols to find drunk and unbuckled drivers and passengers.

The stepped-up impaired driving enforcement is funded by nearly \$1 million in federal traffic safety funds through IDOT’s Division of Transportation Safety.

For more information about impaired driving and other Illinois transportation safety programs, visit <http://trafficsafety.illinois.gov/default.aspx>.

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