

LEON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

RELEASE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION



Larry Campbell, Sheriff

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LCSO Increases Traffic Enforcement for the New Year's Holiday Season

Impaired driving is a crime, not an accident. In fact, it's one of America's most often-committed and deadliest crimes. That's why, beginning Wednesday, December 30, 2009, the Leon County Sheriff's Office will be assigning additional Traffic Deputies to patrol the streets of Tallahassee/Leon County through New Year's Day. These deputies will be on patrol looking for impaired and aggressive drivers. Our message remains simple and unwavering: Drunk Driving. Over the Limit. Under Arrest. No matter what you drive or when, if we catch you driving impaired, we will arrest you. No exceptions. Alcohol and drugs were factors in more than 23,000 crashes in Florida last year, resulting in nearly 17,000 injuries. About 44 percent of Florida's crash fatalities last year were a result of impaired drivers, which is nearly four fatalities per day. Last year the New Year's Day holiday travel period experienced the highest fatality rate per hour, 62 percent of the 42 fatalities involved alcohol.

"The Leon County Sheriff's Office will be out in force, patrolling for drunk, drugged and aggressive drivers" said Sheriff Larry Campbell. "During the holiday season and year-round, citizens should take steps to make sure that you and everyone with whom you celebrate avoid driving under the influence."

The Leon County Sheriff's Office offers the following New Years Holiday Celebration safety tips:

- Whenever you plan on consuming alcohol, designate a sober driver before going out and give that person your keys. Don't let friends or family drive drunk.
- Report impaired drivers to law enforcement.
- Wearing a seat belt or using protective gear on a motorcycle is the best defense against an impaired driver.
- When impaired: Tri-Eagle Sales, Budweiser, Yellow Cab and AAA Auto Club South have joined law enforcement to keep potential drunk drivers off the road in Tallahassee/Leon County. These programs are available through New Years Day. Last year, more than 1,000 safe rides were given through the "Tow to Go" and "Safe Ride" programs. "Tow to Go" is an easy and safe way to ensure drunk drivers stay off our roads. Adults in need of a ride can call 1-800-AAA-HELP. AAA will dispatch a tow truck and will take both the driver and the vehicle home, free of charge. The Budweiser/Yellow Cab "Safe Ride" program is available at Leon County bars and restaurants. If a patron does not have a designated driver and is in need of one, the manager of the establishment will call Yellow Cab to pick up the patron from 8 p.m. to 3 a.m. Tri-Eagle Sales, AAA and Yellow Cab share the costs of the cab and tow fares.

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