



State of Illinois
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Impaired driving a matter of ‘Life or Death’

Independence Day enhanced enforcement period begins this week

SPRINGFIELD – The Illinois Department of Transportation, the Illinois State Police and more than 150 law enforcement agencies throughout the state are stepping up efforts to catch impaired drivers during the Independence Day holiday with an increased enforcement period that begins this week.

“Impaired driving — whether under the influence of alcohol or drugs — is a matter of life or death,” said Omer Osman, deputy secretary at IDOT. “More than 300 people are dying in Illinois each year as a result of impaired driving. These are tragedies that easily could be avoided if drivers make the correct decision to not drive under the influence.”

As part of the increased enforcement, ISP and law enforcement across Illinois will conduct roadside safety checks, impaired driving patrols and seat-belt enforcement zones to reduce the number of injuries and fatalities during the holiday.

“The Fourth of July is a holiday we celebrate with family and friends, enjoying barbeques and spending time together outdoors,” said ISP Director Leo P. Schmitz. “Troopers will be doing their part to keep the roads safe by watching for impaired, reckless and distracted drivers to ensure we all have a safe, enjoyable Independence Day.”

Some tips to help make your July 4th celebration a safe one:

- Never drive impaired, and plan in advance to get a sober ride home.
- If you are impaired, consider taking a cab, mass transit or a ride-sharing service.
- Don’t let others with you drive while impaired.
- Promptly report impaired drivers to law enforcement by pulling over and dialing 911.
- Make sure everyone in your vehicle wears a seat belt. It is your best defense in a crash.

The heightened enforcement coincides with IDOT’s efforts to drive down traffic injuries and fatalities through the Life or Death public safety campaign. To view campaign materials and learn more, visit lifeordeathillinois.com.

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