



STATE OF DELAWARE
OFFICE OF HIGHWAY SAFETY
P.O. BOX 1321
DOVER, DELAWARE 19903-1321
302-744-2743
www.ohs.delaware.gov

NEWS RELEASE

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CONTACT: Andrea Summers
Community Relations Officer
672-7642 (w) 943-7293 (c)

OHS Announces Results of Safe Family Holiday Campaign
163 arrested for DUI, 1 killed and 50 injured in alcohol-related crashes over holiday season

Dover – Delaware law enforcement officers arrested 163 people for DUI between Thanksgiving and New Year's Eve according to the Delaware Office of Highway Safety (OHS) which is announcing the final results of the 2008 Safe Family Holiday Campaign. The Safe Family Holiday Campaign is OHS's major traffic safety initiative for the holiday season. It includes a combination of high visibility enforcement, public awareness activities, and media messaging aimed at stopping impaired and other dangerous drivers.

Of the 163 DUI arrests, 84 were the result of sobriety checkpoints conducted statewide, and the remaining 79 resulted from DUI saturation patrols. A total of 30 DUI checkpoints and 276 saturation patrols were scheduled for the initiative's six week time frame. Twenty-one state and local law enforcement agencies participated.

The Safe Family Holiday campaign began on Thanksgiving Eve with a statewide enforcement blitz. In addition to 56 DUI arrests made that first weekend, officers conducted nearly 70 patrols aimed at stopping speeding, aggressive and unbelted drivers. The patrols resulted in 244 arrests for speeding violations, 122 seat belt citations, and another 221 citations for a variety of other traffic violations. OHS would like to thank its law enforcement partners statewide for their dedication to keeping the state's roadways safe.

OHS also conducted a variety of public awareness activities during the Safe Family Holiday campaign to educate the public about the dangers of drinking and driving. One of these projects, the DUI Victim's Tree, tracked alcohol-related deaths and injuries which occurred between Thanksgiving and New Year's in the State. Colored bulbs placed on the trees, which

are located in the lobby of each of the state's DMV locations, represented each victim of an impaired driving crash. One person was killed in an alcohol-related crash during the 2008 holiday season and 50 others were injured. That means each of the DUI Victim's Trees had one red light bulb and 50 green bulbs to represent the victims.

Additionally, OHS hosted 11 Mocktail events statewide. Mocktail parties are non-alcoholic cocktail parties which serve samples of non-alcoholic punch, appropriate party foods, and provide information about Delaware's DUI laws and penalties for convictions. OHS wishes to thank both its partners in both the corporate and medical communities for stepping up to host these events. As a result, OHS was able to reach between 1,000 and 1,500 individuals with DUI prevention messages.

This was the 10th year for the Safe Family Holiday campaign. For more information about the campaign, and year round DUI enforcement efforts visit the OHS website at www.ohs.delaware.gov. Now the public can subscribe to an RSS feed so they will be notified about regular updates to the OHS website.

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