



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
City of Duluth Police Department

2030 North Arlington Avenue, Duluth, MN 55811
218-730-5400 | www.duluthmn.gov | Gordon Ramsay, Chief of Police

For more information contact Jim Hansen, Public Information Officer
218-390-2232



DATE: 11/26/2013
NATURE OF INCIDENT: Enhanced DWI Enforcement
CASE NO.:
INCIDENT DATE :11/27/2013
INCIDENT TIME:
INCIDENT LOCATION: Duluth and Surrounding Area
SUBJECT: Enhanced DWI Enforcement
BY: DPD Public Information Officer Jim Hansen (218) 390-2232

*The Duluth Police Department, St. Louis County Sheriff's Office, UMD Police Department, Minnesota State Patrol, Hermantown Police Department, Proctor Police Department and Floodwood Police Department are taking part in a statewide DWI crackdown and will be **SERVING UP EXTRA HELPINGS OF DWI ENFORCEMENT** on Thanksgiving Eve through December 28th.*

Thanksgiving Eve is a popular party night and Duluth Police along with our local law enforcement partners are putting extra DWI enforcement *ON THE MENU* to prevent drunk driving crashes. Thanksgiving is a time for family and friends to come together, not a time to be torn apart by a preventable crash.

In Minnesota during the Thanksgiving travel period (Wed.–Sun), 2010–2012:

- Seven people were killed on the roads— five were motorists, of which three were not buckled up.
- Five of the seven people killed were a result of a drunk driving crash.
- 1,522 motorists were arrested for DWI.

Duluth Police and local law enforcement are asking motorists to follow this traffic safety recipe to ensure safe Thanksgiving travel:

- Buckle up before and after you gobble up.
- Plan for enough travel time to avoid the urge to speed — the posted speed is the speed limit.
- Pay attention. Thanksgiving is one of the busiest travel periods of the year.
- If you plan on drinking, plan for a safe and sober ride home.

Minnesota Drunk Driving Facts

During the past three years, 2010–2012, 336 people were killed in Minnesota drunk driving crashes. Each year in the state, around 30,000 people are arrested for DWI.

<https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/ots/reports-statistics/Pages/Fact-sheets.aspx>.

DWI Consequences

A DWI offense can result in loss of license for up to a year, thousands in costs and possible jail time.

Repeat DWI offenders, as well as first-time offenders arrested at 0.16 and above alcohol-concentration level, must use ignition interlock in order to regain legal driving privileges, or face at least one year without a driver's license. Offenders with three or more offenses are required to use interlock for three to six years, or they will never regain driving privileges.

Tips to Prevent Drunk Driving

- Plan for a sober ride — designate a sober driver, use a cab/public transportation or stay at the location of the celebration.
- Offer to be a designated driver, or be available to pick up a loved one anytime, anywhere.
- Buckle up — the best defense against a drunk driver.
- Report drunk driving — call 911 when witnessing impaired driving behavior. Be prepared to provide location, license plate number and observed dangerous behavior.

Extra DWI enforcement and education campaigns are a component of the Department of Public Safety Office of Traffic Safety Toward Zero Deaths traffic safety initiative. A primary vision of the TZD program is to create a safe driving culture in Minnesota in which motorists support a goal of zero road fatalities by practicing and promoting safe and smart driving behavior. TZD focuses on the application of four strategic areas to reduce crashes — education, enforcement, engineering and emergency trauma response.

