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IMPAIRED DRIVING COSTS MORE THAN YOU THINK

~ Governor proclaims December as National Drunk and Drugged Driving (3D) Prevention Month ~

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – As the fatality rate related to drinking and drugged driving decreases, Gov. Rick Scott, the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles and safety partners want to keep the downward trend heading in the right direction. Alcohol and drugs factored into nearly 19,000 crashes last year, leading to more than 13,000 injuries. December is designated as *National Drunk and Drugged Driving (3D) Prevention Month* to promote safe driving as many will be traveling to celebrate the holidays with loved ones. To combat impaired driving, DHSMV has teamed up with the Governor’s Office, local law enforcement agencies and safety advocates to educate drivers and to enforce the Driving Under the Influence laws. To emphasize the importance of the issue, Gov. Rick Scott issued a proclamation to recognize *3D Prevention Month* in Florida.



“This is the season to celebrate with friends and family,” said Governor Scott. “My administration and all of our safety partners across the state of Florida are dedicated to making sure this season is celebrated safely. We plan to lead by example by practicing safe driving habits that include buckling up, driving sober and avoiding distractions while behind the wheel.”

“We encourage everyone to plan ahead this holiday season to avoid drinking or drugged driving,” said Florida Highway Patrol Director, Col. David Brierton. “The Florida Highway Patrol will participate in the *Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over* national crackdown this month. We are encouraging all drivers to make good decisions.”

Quick Facts:

- During the four-day New Year’s holiday travel period in 2010, 32 people died on Florida’s roadways. Of those, 12 were alcohol-related.
- During the four-day Christmas holiday travel period in 2010, 24 people died on Florida’s roadways. Of those, eight were alcohol-related.
- Drug-related injuries and fatalities decreased between 2009 and 2010 from 1,090 to 1,063.

*Source: *2010 Florida Traffic Crash Statistics Report*
(www.flhsmv.gov/html/safety.html.)

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DRINKING AND DRUGS DON'T MIX WITH DRIVING (Continued)

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Protect Your Family, Your Friends and Yourself

During the holiday season and year-round, take steps to make sure that you and everyone with whom you celebrate avoid driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

- Plan ahead. Always designate a sober driver before any holiday party or celebration begins, or take a taxi or public transportation to/from a party if you plan to drink alcohol. A taxi or bus ride is much cheaper than getting a DUI.
- Take the keys. Do not let a friend drive impaired.
- Be a helpful host. If you are hosting a party this holiday season, remind your guests to plan ahead and designate a sober driver, always offer alcohol-free beverages, and make sure all of your guests leave with a sober driver.
- Mind your meds. Heed the warning labels on prescription medicine bottles because even legal drugs can affect your ability to safely operate a motor vehicle.
- Dial *FHP (*347) on your cell phone to report an impaired driver.

The Florida Highway Patrol joins law enforcement organizations across the nation this month to remove impaired drivers from the roadways. The Patrol, often working in conjunction with local law enforcement partners, will conduct sobriety checkpoints and aggressively enforce Florida's DUI laws. FHP will participate in the *Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over* impaired driving crack down between Dec. 16, 2011 - Jan.2, 2012. To learn more about the Patrol and DHSMV, visit www.flhsmv.gov follow us on Twitter at [@FDHSMV](https://twitter.com/FDHSMV) or visit our [Facebook](#) page.

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