



PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

December 12, 2019



Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over this Holiday Season

Palatine, IL — The holidays are a time for family, friends and coworkers to come together in celebration. Wherever you are — at an office party, a family member's home or out at a bar — it is essential that you make the lifesaving choice to drive sober when the party ends. To help spread the message about the dangers of impaired driving, the Palatine Police Department is partnering with the Illinois Department of Transportation, the Illinois State Police and nearly 200 police and sheriff's departments across the state. The goal is simple: Get impaired drivers off the roads and help save lives.

This high-visibility enforcement campaign, *Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over*, runs Dec. 16 to Jan. 2. Law enforcement will show zero tolerance for drunk or drugged driving. We aim to drastically reduce impaired driving on our roads through an increased number of state and national messages about the dangers of impaired driving and more officers enforcing life-saving seat belt, speeding and distracted driving laws.

The Palatine Police Department has joined in this national effort to save more lives by having extra uniformed police officers on the streets conducting saturation patrols dedicated to identifying and arresting impaired drivers, as well as strictly enforcing speeding, cell phone and seat belt violations. Officers will be looking for, and ticketing, individuals who aren't buckled up. It is the law in Illinois to wear your seat belt, no matter where you are seated in the vehicle. In addition, Palatine Police will conduct a Roadside Safety Check from the late evening hours on December 20st through the early morning hours on December 21st in the area of Algonquin and Roselle Roads. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), the midnight to 3:00

am timeframe is the deadliest time on Illinois roads. This timeframe also has the lowest occupant restraint use involving motor vehicle fatalities.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's Fatality Analysis Reporting System, 839 people lost their lives in traffic crashes involving a drunk driver last December. Throughout the 2018 Christmas and New Year's holidays alone, there were 285 drunk-driving-related fatalities – more than any other time that year.

This is why the Palatine Police Department is committed to reminding drivers that impaired driving is not only illegal, it is a matter of life or death. Alcohol-impaired driving isn't the only risk on the road. Drug-impaired driving is also on the rise. If drivers are impaired by any substance — whether alcohol or drugs — they should not get behind the wheel.

Party with a Plan

If you plan to drink, plan for a sober driver to take you home. Is it your turn to be the designated driver? Take that role seriously — your friends are relying on you.

- Remember, it's never OK to drive impaired by drugs or alcohol.
- Designate a sober driver, use public transportation, use a ride share service, or opt to spend the night.
- If you see an impaired driver on the road, call 9-1-1.
- Have a friend who is about to drive impaired? Take the keys away and help them get home safely. They'll thank you later.

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