



# The Red Light Alert

## MADD's Red Ribbons and "Tying One On For Safety"

From the Capitol in Lansing to all parts of the state, red ribbons are on the way, tied onto vehicles. Mothers Against Drunk Driving Red Ribbon Public Awareness Campaign is at it again with its annual News Conference.

### Tie One On For Safety

"Tie One On For Safety" holiday safe and sober driving campaign in support of "You Drink & Drive. You Lose" Law Enforcement Mobilization work together to save lives. A statewide drunk-driving crack down starts December 20, 2004 and runs through January 2, 2005.

The potentially life-saving traffic safety initiative encourages drivers to tie on a MADD red ribbon to a visible place on their automobile as a symbol of their personal decision to drive sober and to remind other drivers to do the same.

Many MADD supporters, campaign sponsors, traffic safety advocates, law enforcement officers, government officials, and community representatives assembled inside the Capitol rotunda area for the press conference.

During the ceremony, Secretary of State Land applauded MADD for

its ongoing commitment to traffic safety. She also outlined actions that the state has taken to help reduce incidents of drunken driving.

"Michigan has taken numerous steps to keep our roads safe," Land said. "Our vertical driver's license program and lower drunken-driving standard are just some of the tools we're using to protect motorists. MADD's red-ribbon campaign effectively reinforces our message that drinking and driving don't mix. The holidays are a time for family, friends and fun. Enjoy your holidays and keep your family and friends safe. If you're going to pick up a drink, please put down your car keys."

### Ceremonial Tying at the Capital

A ceremonial red ribbon tying with officials was held in front of the Capitol. The "Tie One On For Safety" Red Ribbon Public Awareness campaign was created in 1986 to urge Americans to drive sober during the dangerous holiday season when more people are traveling to visit family and friends, companies are holding annual holiday parties, and individuals are hosting festivities. This is a high risk time of the year

International safety belt manufacturer Takata and Mazda are sponsors for the red ribbon campaign.

Historically, from Thanksgiving to New Year's Day, the highest percentage of fatal crashes on the state and nation's roadways involve alcohol. In 2002, 1,561 people were killed in alcohol-related crashes between Thanksgiving and New Year's Eve. MADD reminds drivers that even the smallest amount of alcohol begins to compromise driving skills and decision making, so selecting a designated driver is advised before any drinking begins. The designated driver should remain alcohol-free to provide a safe ride home. Planning ahead is critical

because it's not how many drinks it takes to effect driving skills- it's how few. Alcohol-free is the safest way to be (and the surest bet) when getting behind the wheel.

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### For More Information

For more information on participating or to obtain a red ribbon, contact a MADD Chapter or the MADD, Michigan State Office at PO Box 19341 Lansing, MI 48901, Phone: 517-487-6233.

**MADD's Red Ribbon is to increase awareness of the dangers of drinking and driving.**

when awareness is critical.

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## TRAFFIC SAFETY FORUM SITE

The Traffic Safety Forum is an electronic message group set up to keep prosecutors and assistant prosecutors in Michigan current with legal information as well as to provide a forum for the discussion about cases, motions, and other legal issues.

At this site there can be an exchange of ideas, as well as documents and PowerPoint presentations. The site is secure from the public and open only to prosecutors and assistant prosecutors. Currently, there are 105 members. On the site there are PowerPoint presentations dealing with .08, a chart regarding The Driver Responsibility Act, a generic PowerPoint Presentation on an OUIL (old law) case, and circuit court cases supporting the motorcycle helmet law.

If you have any questions, or want to get onto the site, email me at wallaced@michigan.gov or call 517-334-6060 ext. 827. Give me your name, email address, and where you work. I'll then send the invitation to you to join the Forum.



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# State Law Enforcement Gear Up For Drunk Driving Crackdown

Law enforcement officers across Michigan want motorists to make it home for the holidays - safely. That's why from December 20, 2004 - January 2, 2005, nearly 500 Michigan law enforcement agencies are joining together for a statewide drunk driving crackdown. The You Drink & Drive. You Lose. crackdown is being coordinated through the Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning. OHSP is providing more than 100 agencies in 22 counties with federal traffic safety dollars for overtime enforcement of the state's drunk driving laws.

**"Michigan law enforcement will be patrolling streets, roads, and highways...to keep everyone safe."  
Michael L. Prince**

## Counties Involved

Counties receiving overtime funding include Bay, Berrien, Calhoun, Delta, Ingham, Genesee, Grand Traverse, Jackson, Kalamazoo, Kent, Leelanau, Livingston, Marquette, Macomb, Monroe, Muskegon, Oakland, Ottawa, Saginaw, St. Clair, Washtenaw and Wayne counties.

## Keeping Our Streets Safe

"Michigan law enforcement will be patrolling streets, roads, and highways throughout the state, watching for drunk drivers, in an effort to keep everyone safe," said Michael L. Prince, OHSP division director. "Motorists can protect themselves and everyone else on the road by simply not drinking and driving."

In 2003, Michigan recorded the fewest alcohol and/or drug related fatalities in



**This season's message is "If You Catch A Buzz, Catch A Ride" This is part of the nationwide campaign "You Drink & Drive. You Lose."**

recent history - 442. This represents a 4 percent decrease from 2002. During last year's You Drink & Drive. You Lose. crackdown, there were six Christmas holiday traffic fatalities and seven traffic deaths during the New Year's holiday. Of those fatalities, three involved alcohol.