



The Red Light Alert

Night Owls Are Watching for Drunk Drivers

This Independence Day, the latest *You Drink and Drive. You Lose*. Mobilization will be in full force. Over 500 police agencies across the state will be patrolling for drunk and impaired drivers.

In 2002, 1,279 people died on Michigan roadways, and nearly 36% of them were alcohol and/or drug related. The most effective way to save lives on our roads is to increase enforcement visibility and get drunk drivers off the road.

Media Events

A series of six media events throughout the state kick off Thursday, June 26, to announce the *You Drink and Drive. You Lose*. campaign. They are being hosted in the Upper Peninsula, Metro Detroit, Flint-Saginaw-Bay City region, Grand Rapids area, Lansing, and Traverse City.

Overtime funding will be provided for intense, highly

visible enforcement of the state's drunk driving laws to the Drive Michigan Safely Task Force, which represents 19 counties and approximately 75 percent of the state's population. All Michigan law enforcement agencies will have the opportunity to win equipment or overtime funds for being a part of the *You Drink & Drive. You Lose*. enforcement mobilization.

Radio, television, and cable advertising promoting the campaign hits the airwaves June 19. Phone surveys are being used to gauge public awareness of the campaign message and enforcement presence.

Truckers

An additional resource will also be utilized for the first time this Independence Day. Four trucking companies – E. & L. Transport, Central Transport, Spartan Stores, and Meijer, Inc. have volunteered to make a special effort to report any suspected drunk drivers their truckers see on the road.



The truckers will call 9-1-1 whenever they spot a suspected drunk driver and report the location and vehicle description to the police. The truckers will also be given information developed by OHSP that details how to spot a drunk driver.

For More Information

To find out more information about the *You Drink & Drive. You Lose* or the NightOwls campaign, please visit the OHSP website at www.michigan.gov/msp (click on Services to Governmental Agencies and then Office of Highway Safety Planning).

Michigan Law Enforcement Agencies Cite More Than 21,000 Motorists During Recent Safety Belt Mobilization

Michigan law enforcement officers issued 21,482 safety belt citations during the two-week *Buckle Up or Pay Up, Click It or Ticket* mobilization that started May 19 and ran through June 1. A total of 333 agencies reported their citation activity to the Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning.

These figures include 6,139 citations issued in the pilot safety belt enforcement zones. All enforcement zones received special signage announcing the enforcement activity.

Of the citations issued, 20,893 were for unbuckled adults, 364 for passengers age 4 to 15, and 219 were

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NHTSA Prosecutor Fellow Opening

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) will be replacing the Prosecutor Fellow effective September 30th therefore, they are starting the process to hire a new Fellow by advertising the position. The Prosecutor Fellow will serve as a liaison between the National Association of Prosecutor Coordinators (NAPC), National Traffic Law Center (NTLC), NHTSA, and the judicial community nationwide. This is a unique opportunity to see traffic safety issues from a different perspective and also be a voice for prosecutors in Washington. The position pays a stipend of \$1,000 a month. Herb Tanner (Former Chief Assistant Prosecutor, Montcalm County, and now with PAAM), currently holds the position and will continue his work as the Fellow until his contract expires on September 30th.

If you would like an application, please give me, or my assistant Carol, a call. The application deadline is July 13. If you have any questions, please call me or Herb Tanner at PAAM.

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Buckle Up or Pay Up!

(Continued from page 1)

for children under age 4. During the last safety belt mobilization, which included the Thanksgiving holiday, 19,347 safety belt citations were written.

"It is disappointing that citation activity was still brisk, especially when signage indicated our strict enforcement of the safety belt law," said Major Timothy Yungfer, acting division director of the Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning. "Hopefully, the individuals ticketed in this enforcement project now understand the importance of wearing a safety belt."

This enforcement period included the Memorial Day holiday weekend. Although information is still preliminary, Michigan recorded six holiday traffic fatalities. According to information from the Michigan State Police, Criminal Justice Information Center, the safest Memorial Day weekend since 1972 occurred in 1982 when there were nine holiday traffic deaths.

Results from a direct observation survey of safety belt use following the mobilization should be available within four to six weeks.

Information from OHSP, press release on June 17, 2003.



It really was Buckle up or Pay Up for more than 21,000 individuals.