



## Staying Safe this July 4<sup>th</sup> Holiday

Article provided by Virginia State Police, July 27, 2011, from Checkpoint Strikeforce July 4<sup>th</sup> Impaired Driving Enforcement Campaign

Planned your Fourth of July celebrations yet? Will it be a picnic, a visit to the beach or a boat ride on the river? Maybe you plan to visit family and friends to enjoy a cookout and some fireworks. Whatever your arrangements are - if alcohol is served, make sure your plans also include a designated driver.

### **WHY?**

While the holiday is meant to celebrate our Nation's birth, unfortunately, it is considered one of the deadliest when it comes to alcohol-impaired traffic fatalities.

Take a look at the statistics for the Independence Day Holiday Weekend:

- In 2009, 410 people died in motor vehicle crashes across the country.
- The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) indicates 40 percent of those crashes involved drivers with a blood alcohol concentration or BAC of .08 or higher.
- In Virginia, state troopers arrested 152 individuals for drunk driving during the 2010 July 4<sup>th</sup> Holiday.

### **WHAT IS CHECKPOINT STRIKEFORCE?**

*Checkpoint Strikeforce* is meant to deter individuals from getting behind the wheel and driving drunk. The anti-DUI campaign means increased sobriety checkpoints and law enforcement patrols starting in July and lasting until December. This means a sobriety checkpoint usually every weekend throughout the Commonwealth. The intense six-month initiative means a driver may never know where or when they may encounter a sobriety checkpoint.



### **IMPAIRED DRIVING – THE RISK, DANGER AND COST**

If you drink and drive you could:

- ✓ Possibly injure or kill someone
- ✓ Lose your license
- ✓ Face possible jail time
- ✓ Pay high court costs, attorney fees, insurance premiums and towing fees

### **IT'S NOT WORTH IT.....**

If you think someone may be impaired on the road you should:

- ✓ Call state police by dialing #77 while on the interstate
- ✓ Or dial 911 to reach local law enforcement

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