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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Bluffton Police Department Will Arrest Impaired Drivers with National *Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over* Effort

The Bluffton Police Department is joining about 220 law-enforcement agencies across Indiana and thousands nationwide in the *Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over* campaign.

From mid-August through the Labor Day Weekend, police will be out in full force, arresting impaired drivers by aggressively targeting those who put lives in danger. Expect to see increased sobriety checkpoints, roving patrols and saturation patrols.

“If you drive impaired, our officers are trained to spot you and take you to jail. *Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over* means zero tolerance,” said local law enforcement leaders. “These enforcement efforts save the lives of impaired drivers, their passengers and others out on the road.”

In every state and the District of Columbia, it is illegal to drive with a blood alcohol concentration of .08 or higher. In Indiana, drivers under 21 with a BAC of .02 or higher are subject to fines and a license suspension for up to 1 year.

A DUI arrest means going to jail and losing your driver’s license. The average DUI cost? About \$10,000, including car towing and repairs, attorney fees, fines, court costs, lost time at work and other hefty expenses.

Indiana law-enforcement agencies have participated in the annual *Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over* enforcement campaign for more than 20 years. Overtime patrols are supported with federal highway safety funds administered by the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute. For more information, visit <http://one.nhtsa.gov/drivesober>.

Tips for a safe and fun season

The annual *Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over* enforcement campaign includes the Labor Day weekend, with thousands upon thousands of Hoosier families taking to their cars for end-of-summer barbecues, football games, lakes and pool parties. Sadly, it is also one of the deadliest times of year for impaired-driving deaths.

With all of today's options for getting home safely, there's no excuse for getting behind the wheel impaired as it endangers you and everyone else around you. Law enforcement recommends these safe alternatives to impaired driving:

- Designate, or be, a sober driver.
- Use public transportation.
- Call a cab or a ridesharing service.
- Download the SaferRide mobile app on the [Android Play Store](#) or the [Apple iTunes Store](#). This simple app only has three options: call a taxi, call a friend, and identify your location for pickup.
- Celebrate at home or a place where you can stay until sober.
- Throwing a party? Offer non-alcoholic beverages and plenty of food.
- Never provide alcohol to minors.
- Ask young drivers about their plans.
- Friend or family member about to drive? Take the keys and make alternate arrangements.

Ride Sober or Get Pulled Over

Motorcyclists have the reputation for being tough, but no one is tough enough to withstand the effects of impaired riding. Motorcycles make up about 3 percent of registered vehicles, but are dramatically overrepresented in fatal crashes involving alcohol. The more that bikers drink, the less likely they are to wear their helmets.

The U.S. Department of Transportation has released a new "Man in the Mirror" video with a biker judging whether he is sober enough to ride: <https://youtu.be/V--qw9N00KM>.

Report impaired drivers

Impaired driving is three times more common at night than during the day. If you see an impaired driver, turn off the road away from the vehicle and call 911. Signs of impaired driving include:

- Weaving, swerving, drifting, or straddling the center line
- Driving at a very slow speed
- Braking erratically
- Making wide turns
- Stopping without cause
- Responding slowly to traffic signals
- Driving after dark with headlights off
- Almost striking an object or vehicle
- Driving on the wrong side of the road
- Turning abruptly or illegally

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