

NEWS RELEASE

Indiana Criminal Justice Institute



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Statewide Crackdown Coincides with College Hoops, St. Patrick's Day Events

Patrols to target impaired, aggressive drivers on Indiana roadways

Indianapolis, IN. - The Indiana Criminal Justice Institute (ICJI) and the Governor's Council on Impaired & Dangerous Driving today announced that Operation Pull Over Blitz 62 begins tomorrow, March 5. The statewide crackdown on impaired and dangerous driving will last 17 days, ending on March 21.

In 2009, 157 people were killed in traffic collisions with a driver that had been drinking alcohol. Eighty-two percent of these collisions involved a driver who was legally intoxicated. In fact, there were 41 fatalities on Indiana roadways during the month of March alone in 2009. Twenty-four percent of these deaths involved a driver that was legally intoxicated.

"March is a spirited time for Hoosiers. From the quest for college basketball glory to neighborhood St. Patrick's Day celebrations, the month brings many opportunities to gather with family and friends," said ICJI Executive Director, T. Neil Moore. "No matter what your reason for revelry, if you plan to drink, make the right play. Give your keys to a sober driver."

During this federally-funded enforcement effort, more than 250 state and local law enforcement agencies will conduct sobriety checkpoints, saturation patrols and other high-visibility patrols to detect impaired motorists.

Indiana law enforcement officers will also be on the lookout for unrestrained motorists and aggressive drivers, which include those who speed, run red lights, tailgate and exhibit other dangerous driving behaviors. This is the 15th year that Indiana law enforcement has participated in Operation Pull Over traffic safety efforts.

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"Drunk Driving. Over the Limit. Under Arrest."

Executive Director, T. Neil Moore

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Impaired driving is one of the nation's most deadly problems. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), in 2008 there were 134 crash fatalities nationwide on St. Patrick's Day* alone. Because some Hoosiers will make alcoholic beverages a part of their March festivities, Moore offers these tips to ensure a safe celebration for all:

- Designate a sober driver and give that person your keys before the festivities begin.
- If you become impaired, use a taxi, call a friend or use public transportation to get home safely.
- Call 911 immediately if you see an impaired driver on the road.
- If you know someone who is about to drive or ride while impaired, take their keys and help them make arrangements to get home safely.

**NHTSA defines ST. PATRICK'S DAY AS 6:00 PM MARCH 16 TO 5:59AM MARCH 18.*

To learn more, visit www.StopImpairedDriving.org.

Operation Pull Over Blitz 62 is a statewide enforcement effort supported by federal funding allocated to the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute's (ICJI) Traffic Safety division from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). Indiana's crackdown on impaired and dangerous driving is reinforced by a paid statewide advertising campaign (airing March 3-17) and targeted public outreach efforts aimed at comprehensively promoting the life-saving benefits of driving safe and sober.

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