



Greg Champagne
Sheriff

St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office

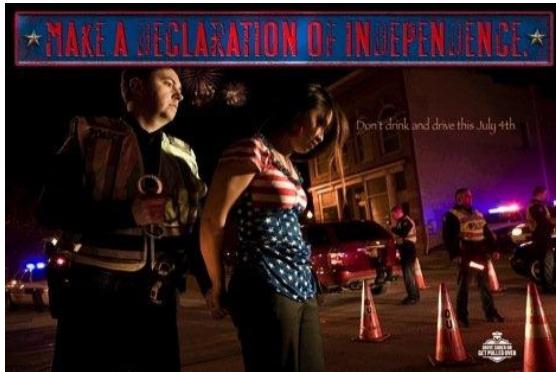
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News Release

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"Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" This Fourth of July

Most Americans may not realize it, but the Fourth of July is one of the deadliest holidays of the year due to alcohol-impaired driving crashes. That's why this Fourth of July St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office is stepping up enforcement efforts as part of the ongoing "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" enforcement crackdown to catch and arrest impaired drivers who put themselves and others at risk. "This Fourth of July Holiday is one of the deadliest Holidays due to an increase in impaired driving fatalities," said Sheriff Greg Champagne. "Too many people die behind the wheel each year due to those who choose to drive after drinking, so our officers will be out in full force this Fourth of July showing zero tolerance for impaired drivers."

Impaired-driving crashes killed more than 10,000 people in 2010, accounting for 31 percent of all traffic-related fatalities in the United States. That's an average of one alcohol-impaired-driving fatality every 51 minutes. But the percentage of fatalities from impaired driving spike around the Fourth of July. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 392 people were killed in motor vehicle traffic crashes during the Fourth of July holiday in 2010. Of those fatalities 39 percent were in crashes that involved at least one driver or motorcycle operator with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .08 or higher. To save lives on our roadways this Fourth of July, local law enforcement will be cracking down on impaired driving through increased sobriety checkpoints, roving and saturation patrols, and other enforcement methods.

St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office recommends these simple tips for a safe Fourth of July

Before drinking, designate a sober driver

- If you're impaired, use a taxi, call a sober friend or family member, or use public transportation
- If you happen to see a drunk driver on the road, don't hesitate to contact 911
- Remember, "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over." If you know someone who is about to drive or ride while impaired, take their keys and help them make other arrangements to get to where they are going safely.