

# NEWS RELEASE

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## Alabama Department of Public Safety

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### **TROOPERS PLAN LABOR DAY IMPAIRED-DRIVING CRACKDOWN, *Warn Motorists: 'You Drink & Drive. You Lose.'***

MONTGOMERY — Alabama state troopers will be cracking down on impaired driving throughout the Labor Day holiday travel period, according to Department of Public Safety Director Col. W.M. Coppage. He said all available troopers will be on duty, and they will target impaired drivers and other dangerous driving behavior during routine patrols and at checkpoints.

Troopers are partnering with other law enforcement officers throughout Alabama in “*You Drink & Drive. You Lose.*” This holiday traffic safety campaign aims to reduce alcohol-related traffic crashes, deaths and injuries by intensive enforcement of the state’s DUI laws and warning motorists about the dangers of impaired driving.

Coppage said state troopers will be searching the state for impaired drivers throughout the holiday period, and warned motorists of the dangers of impaired driving. “The slogan, ‘You Drink & Drive. You Lose,’ could not be truer. The penalties for DUI are severe in Alabama, but the cost in lives lost and injuries suffered surpasses any fine or other penalty under the law.”

In addition to urging motorists to drive sober, state troopers encourage them to buckle up, obey speed limits and all other traffic laws. “The Labor Day holiday traditionally brings heavy traffic, and motorists should exercise caution throughout the holiday period,” said Coppage. He also encouraged motorists to practice courtesy and patience on the roadways, driving defensively and keeping safety in mind at all times.

The Department of Public Safety estimates that 13 people may die as the result of traffic crashes in Alabama during the 78-hour Labor Day holiday travel period beginning at 6 p.m. Friday, Sept. 2, and ending at midnight Monday, Sept. 5.

Last year seven traffic deaths occurred during the 78-hour period, five on rural roads and two in urban areas. At least two of the deaths were alcohol related, and two of the motor vehicle occupants that were killed were not using safety restraints.

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