

NEWS RELEASE

Alabama Department of Public Safety

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TROOPERS PROMOTE SAFE, SOBER DRIVING DURING LABOR DAY, *Warn Motorists: 'You Drink & Drive. You Lose.'*

MONTGOMERY — Alabama state troopers will step up enforcement activity during the Labor Day holiday travel weekend, according to Department of Public Safety Director Col. W.M. Coppage. All available troopers will be on duty to participate in special enforcement details, including line patrols, saturation details and checkpoints, in addition to routine patrols.

“Deaths on Alabama’s roadways are increasing this year at an alarming rate,” said Coppage. “Alabama’s state troopers are doing everything they can to save lives on highways, but we all have a stake in highway and traffic safety. That is why we ask that all motorists do their part, too.”

State troopers urge motorists to buckle up, obey speed limits and other traffic laws, and drive sober. “We also ask motorists to drive defensively and courteously, and to focus on safety throughout the holiday weekend,” said Coppage. Labor Day is the last major holiday of the warm-weather travel season, and it traditionally brings heavy traffic.

Troopers will partner with other law enforcement officers throughout Alabama in “*You Drink & Drive. You Lose.*” The targeted safety campaign aims to reduce alcohol-related traffic deaths by warning motorists about the dangers of impaired driving and targeting impaired drivers during patrols and checkpoints.

Coppage said state troopers will be vigilant 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. It’s estimated that up to half of all traffic deaths are alcohol related. Such deaths are 100 percent preventable, if motorists choose to drive responsibly. 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.”

The Department of Public Safety estimates that 15 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. 3, and ending at midnight Monday, Sept. 6.

Last year eight traffic deaths occurred during the 78-hour period, five on rural roads and three in urban areas. At least three of the deaths were alcohol related, and six of the crash victims were not using safety restraints.

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