



NEWS RELEASE

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“Sheriff’s Office Reminds Motorists to Stay Sober, Buckle up”

Westminster, Carroll County, Maryland, December 19, 2011 ---- Carroll County Sheriff’s Deputies will be out in extra force this holiday season to protect motorists from drunk, drugged and aggressive drivers. In spite of increasing gas prices, AAA projects that nearly 92 million motorists will travel by car to visit family and friends this Holiday Season. Many will travel during hours when they are normally accustomed to sleeping.

The holiday period between Christmas and New Year’s Eve is one of the busiest and deadliest times for our nation’s roads, with a high incidence of sleep and alcohol-related traffic fatalities. In fact, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), last holiday season more than 400 people were killed in alcohol-related traffic crashes.

Before leaving home, motorists should verify that vehicle headlamps and signal lights are functional. It is also suggested that a check to insure tire pressure and all fluids - including gasoline are at recommended levels. With many service centers closed several days during this time of year, response for emergency repairs could be delayed significantly. Inasmuch motorists are encouraged to take along a fully charged cellular telephone. Travelers should also review trip directions beforehand, including checking for construction delays at: <http://www.chart.state.md.us/travinfo/travinfo.asp>

The Sheriff’s Office reminds motorists to buckle up, drive safe and use good judgment this holiday season. Avoid driving while drowsy, building-in time for breaks or sharing driving responsibilities during long trips. Sheriff Kenneth L. Tregoning also urges everyone, “to drink responsibly or designate a sober driver before consuming any alcohol” while celebrating the season. To help everyone reach their destination, additional patrols of Sheriff’s Deputies will be in place throughout the holiday season to identify and remove impaired, aggressive and distracted drivers from the road.