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News Release

ACPD to join with Thanksgiving Safe Arrival enforcement effort

Statewide enforcement campaign to focus on impaired driving, seat belt use

ARKANSAS CITY, Kan. (November 18, 2021) — The Arkansas City Police Department will join many other police agencies across the state, including the Kansas Highway Patrol, in the Kansas Thanksgiving Safe Arrival traffic enforcement campaign on Saturday, Nov. 20, through Monday, Nov. 29.

“Although all Kansas traffic laws will be enforced, this extra provision will be aggressively enforcing our occupant protection laws,” said Police Chief Eric Burr.

“While the objective of this campaign is mainly to target the unbelted and incorrectly restrained, we also will provide education that serves as a reminder that BUCKLING UP SAVES LIVES.”

A grant from the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) will support overtime traffic enforcement efforts that specifically aim at removing impaired drivers from roadways and ticketing vehicle occupants who are improperly restrained or unrestrained, or whose children are unrestrained.

“Keep in mind that if you are going for a drive — anywhere at all — don’t even consider putting the vehicle into drive until you and all passengers are properly restrained — PERIOD,” Burr said.

The day before Thanksgiving sees more impairment-related crashes than any other day of the year.

Those driving under the influence of alcohol or other drugs endanger not only themselves, but also others with whom they share the road, including passengers, other motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians.

On average across Kansas, three people are injured every day and someone is killed every four days in alcohol- or drug-related crashes — and the crashes tend to be more severe.

Vehicle occupants in alcohol- or other drug-related crashes are more than 2 1/2 times more likely to be injured or killed than those involved in crashes in which alcohol or other drugs were not a factor, according to KDOT, which tracks all crashes in the state.

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Each week across Kansas, more than 250 drivers are arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence (DUI) of alcohol or other drugs.

A DUI conviction can result in jail time, the suspension or revocation of a driver's license, a fine of \$500 to \$2,500, participation in an alcohol or other drug treatment program, and the purchase and installation of an ignition interlock device for the offender's vehicle by the offender.

An ignition interlock device requires the offender to blow into a device that measures breath alcohol concentration prior to starting the car.

Also responsible for needless deaths and maiming is the failure by many drivers and passengers simply to buckle up. Twice as many Kansans who die from a crash are unrestrained as are restrained.

"Even worse is the fact that injuries suffered by those who are unbuckled are likely to be much more severe and disabling than injuries suffered by those buckled in properly," Burr said. "That applies regardless of speed or whether the collision is on a city street, county road, or highway.

"Remember: Make the right choice. On the drive to zero, YOU are in the driver's seat."

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