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**NEWS RELEASE**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Safe Family Holiday Campaign Update** *18 alcohol related crashes since Thanksgiving*

**Dover** – With Thanksgiving kicking off the holiday season, Delaware law enforcement officers have been staying busy the past 2 weeks conducting overtime traffic safety enforcement resulting in 56 DUI arrests, 422 speeding citations, 183 seat belt tickets, 37 wanted persons apprehended, 2 Aggressive Driving citations, issuing 9 underage drinking violations, and 24 cell phone citations.

In addition, according to police reports, 18 people have been injured in alcohol-related crashes statewide since Thanksgiving. As a result 18 green light bulbs will be added to the DUI Trees, located in AI DuPont Hospital, Kent General Hospital, Dover Downs Hotel & Casino, Nanticoke Memorial Hospital, and Beebe Hospital. Fortunately, so far this holiday season, no one has been killed in an alcohol related crash.

The DUI Tree project memorializes alcohol-related deaths and injuries which occur during the campaign period by placing colored light bulbs on the tree to represent each victim. Each red bulb on the tree symbolizes someone killed in an alcohol-related crash in Delaware between Thanksgiving and New Year's Eve. Each green light bulb symbolizes someone injured in an impaired driving crash.

Over the last weekend Delaware law enforcement officers conducted sobriety checkpoints, DUI saturation patrols, Seat Belt patrols, and Aggressive Driving patrols statewide which resulted in the arrest of 28 people for Driving Under the Influence (DUI) of alcohol and/or drugs, 177 speeding citations, 2 Aggressive Driving citations, and 22 seat belt citations. In addition to the weekend's DUI, Aggressive Driving, and Seat Belt citations, officers issued 1 citation for a underage drinking violation, apprehended 11 wanted individuals, made 2 drug

arrests, arrested 4 for child restraint citations, and issued 160 citations for various other traffic violations.

Three sobriety checkpoints are scheduled for next weekend as follows:

Friday Dec. 9th -       Wilmington – NcCo DUI Task Force  
                                  Millsboro – Millsboro PD

Saturday Dec. 10th – Rehoboth/Dewey – DSP Troop 7

The 13<sup>h</sup> annual Safe Family Holiday campaign runs from Thanksgiving through New Year's Eve and involves a combination of high visibility enforcement efforts and public awareness activities. For more information on these or any of our other Safe Family Holiday campaign efforts follow us on Twitter @DEHighwaySafe, visit our website for updates at [www.ohs.delaware.gov](http://www.ohs.delaware.gov), or Like us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/ArriveAliveDE](http://www.facebook.com/ArriveAliveDE).

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