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NEWS RELEASE

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NEWS RELEASE

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DUI Checkpoints & Patrols Set for New Years Eve

5 Injured & 2 killed in alcohol-related crashes last week, 23 arrested for DUI, 5 checkpoints & 90 DUI patrols scheduled for New Year's Eve weekend.

Dover – Five sobriety checkpoints are scheduled to occur between Friday, Dec. 30th and Saturday Dec 31st. New Years Eve is a big night for impaired driving according to state and local law enforcement officers. Last year twenty (20) people were arrested for Driving under the Influence (DUI) of alcohol and/or drugs on New Year's Eve. Checkpoints will be supplemented with 90 additional DUI saturation patrols throughout the weekend by State, County and Municipal police agencies.

According to police reports, 2 people were killed and another 5 people were injured in alcohol-related crashes last week. This means the first 2 red bulbs will be added to the DUI Trees which are located at AI DuPont Hospital, Kent General Hospital, Beebe Hospital, Nanticoke Hospital, Dover Downs, and at the Delaware National Guard Headquarters in Wilmington. This brings the total number of people injured in alcohol related crashes since Thanksgiving to 24 and two people killed this holiday season.

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.

This past Christmas weekend was not so jolly for some drivers. Law enforcement officers arrested 23 people for DUI, arrested 2 for underage drinking, apprehended 20 wanted individuals, made 8 drug arrests, 3 felony arrests, issued 17 seat belt citations, 5 child restraint citation, 3 cell phone citations, and 506 citations for various other traffic violations.

Four sobriety checkpoint and 90 DUI saturation patrols are scheduled for New Year's Eve weekend. The checkpoints will be held as follows:

Friday Dec. 30th – Rehoboth – Rehoboth Beach PD
Clayton- Clayton PD

Saturday Dec. 31st - Newport - New Castle County Task Force
Wilmington- New Castle County Task Force
Millsboro- Millsboro PD

The 13th 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 the campaign, visit our website at www.ohs.delaware.gov and click on the Safe Family Holiday link on the left side of the page or Like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ArriveAliveDE.

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