



## MEDIA RELEASE

### OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

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ANDERSON COUNTY, TENNESSEE

SHERIFF PAUL N. WHITE

December 14, 2010

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### Holiday Traffic Safety

#### ***Drunk Driving. Over the Limit. Under Arrest.***



The Anderson County Sheriff's Department will join state and local law enforcement agencies this holiday season to remind motorists about the dangers of driving drunk or impaired.

Since 1981, every President of the United States has demonstrated his commitment to preventing impaired driving by proclaiming December "*National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month*" to help the commitment in preventing impaired driving and promoting the use of designated drivers and sober-ride programs. The public will see increased law enforcement efforts to combat impaired driving during the month of December and through the New Year's holiday.

Across the nation, in 2009, 10,839 people died in crashes that involved a drunk driver or motorcycle operator with a blood alcohol concentration of .08 or higher. Of that number, 753 of those lives were lost in December alone – 6.9% of all alcohol-related fatalities for the year. The 303 people killed in drunk driving crashes in Tennessee represent 31% of the state's traffic fatalities.

In addition to driving under the influence of alcohol, people are reminded that drugged driving is also dangerous and against the law. In 2009, more than 2,000 crashes in Tennessee involved a driver that tested positive for drugs and 91 of those drivers were killed. Throughout the nation, 3,952 fatally injured drivers tested positive for drug involvement in 2009.

The Anderson County Sheriff's Department, in cooperation with the Tennessee Highway Patrol and our local police agencies, will be conducting sobriety checkpoints and saturation patrols throughout the holidays. This effort is supported by a grant from the Governor's Highway Safety Office.

For more information, visit [www.StopImpairedDriving.org](http://www.StopImpairedDriving.org).

**Sheriff Paul White**

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