



NEWS RELEASE

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LAW ENFORCEMENT CRACKS DOWN ON DRUNK DRIVERS DURING LABOR DAY HOLIDAY

Increased enforcement period runs Aug. 21-Sept. 7

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AUSTIN – The Texas Department of Transportation reminds drivers that law enforcement officers across the state are out in full force looking for drunk drivers in the weeks leading up to Labor Day, Sept. 7. Last year in Texas, 21 people were killed and 42 were seriously injured in 338 alcohol-related crashes over the Labor Day holiday.

“Labor Day weekend is a fun time for family and friends to celebrate, but you absolutely must have a sober-ride plan if you’re going to consume alcohol,” said TxDOT Executive Director LtGen Joe Weber, USMC (Ret). “Too many people are killed on our roads each year – especially during holidays – due to impaired driving. These crashes are inexcusable and 100-percent preventable. We are grateful to our law enforcement officers who will be keeping Texans safe by pulling over and arresting impaired drivers.”

Many Texas communities implement “no-refusal” programs over Labor Day weekend, authorizing law enforcement officials to obtain blood samples from suspected drunk drivers and motorcyclists. Drivers convicted of DWI in Texas face costs up to \$17,000 plus possible jail time, limited career prospects and loss of driver’s license.

TxDOT strongly encourages everyone to have a plan for a sober ride before going out. Visit SoberRides.org to locate alternatives to drinking and driving, including:

- Calling a taxi or using a transportation app on your smartphone.
- Using mass transit.
- Asking a sober friend or family member for a ride home.
- Spending the night.

For more information, contact TxDOT Media Relations at MediaRelations@txdot.gov or (512) 463-8700.

The information contained in this report represents reportable data collected from the Texas Peace Officer's Crash Report (CR-3). This information was received and processed by the department as of July 17, 2015.

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The Texas Department of Transportation is responsible for maintaining 80,000 miles of road and for supporting aviation, rail, and public transportation across the state. TxDOT and its 12,000 employees are committed to working with others to provide safe and reliable transportation solutions for Texas by maintaining a safe system, addressing congestion, connecting Texas communities, and being a Best in Class state agency. Find out more at txdot.gov. “Like” us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/txdot) and follow us on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/txdot).

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