

City of

HURST TEXAS

POLICE DEPARTMENT



MEDIA RELEASE

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Issued by: Sergeant S.R. Safran #507
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Topic: Texas Law Enforcement Cracks Down On Drunk Drivers This Holiday Season

Texas law enforcement is ramping up patrols to combat drunk driving this holiday season. Officers statewide will work thousands of extra hours in December to help keep people safe on the roadways. Texas is participating in the national enforcement crackdown sponsored by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). The period of intensified national enforcement will run from December 10 to January 1.

If a Hurst police officer suspects a driver has been drinking, the driver will be pulled over. In addition to jail time, drivers who are arrested for driving while intoxicated can face fines, fees, and associated costs of up to \$17,000. The legal limit in Texas for intoxication is .08 BAC (blood or breath alcohol concentration). However, when a law enforcement officer has probable cause based on the driver's behavior, drivers can be arrested with a BAC below .08.

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) encourages Texans to give the gift of a sober ride this holiday season. It's a gift that could save a life while also protecting drivers from the formidable legal and financial troubles that can result from drinking and driving. SoberRides.org is one way to find a safe ride home.

Driving under the influence of alcohol (DUI-alcohol) can have tragic consequences. According to TxDOT, there were over 2,300 DUI-alcohol traffic crashes in Texas last holiday season (Dec. 1, 2013 – Jan. 1,

2014), resulting in 763 serious injuries and 92 fatalities. Compared to the previous year, there was a 6.6 percent decrease in DUI-alcohol crashes and an 8.9 percent decrease in DUI-alcohol traffic fatalities in Texas. These decreases are encouraging, but there is still a lot of work to be done.

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