

NEWS RELEASE

For Release: Dec. 10, 2008

Contacts:

Katie Beal
Senior Communications Coordinator
952-949-8526

Joyce Lorenz
Communications Manager
952-949-8554



OFF: 952 949 8300
FAX: 952 949 8390
TDD: 952 949 8399

8080 Mitchell Rd
Eden Prairie, MN
55344-4485

edenprairie.org

EDEN PRAIRIE AND BLOOMINGTON POLICE INCREASE IMPAIRED DRIVING PATROLS *Safe & Sober Program Targets Impaired Drivers this Holiday Season*

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. — The Eden Prairie and Bloomington Police Departments will increase DWI patrols this month in an effort to prevent traffic related tragedies during the holiday season. The statewide impaired driving enforcement sweep will cover the month of December — one of the deadliest months for alcohol-related crashes. The increased enforcement effort includes participation from more than 400 law enforcement agencies across Minnesota.

During the last three years (2005–2007) in the state of Minnesota, 41 motorists were killed in alcohol-related crashes and another 10,553 were arrested for DWI in the month of December alone.

“We are participating in the state-wide effort to crack down on impaired drivers because we want to ensure a safe and happy holiday season for everyone,” says Sergeant Pete Vosbeek of the Eden Prairie Police Department. “We need drivers to make responsible decisions and plan ahead for a safe ride home when they are out celebrating; and drivers should know that if they fail to do the right thing, they will get caught.”

Police will also conduct increased seat belt enforcement during the night time DWI patrols. Of the impaired drivers and their passengers killed in alcohol-related crashes from 2005-2007, 71 percent were not wearing seat belts.

The Safe & Sober effort is coordinated by the DPS Office of Traffic Safety as a component of the state’s Toward Zero Death initiative (TZD). TZD is a multi-agency approach to address traffic issues regionally through enforcement, education, engineering and emergency trauma care and response.

###