

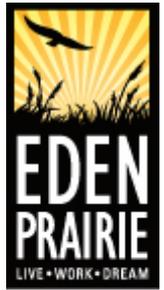
# NEWS RELEASE

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## 18 MOTORISTS WITH TOO MUCH HOLIDAY “SPIRIT” ARRESTED FOR DWI

*Eden Prairie Police Urge Motorists to Make Smart Driving Decisions*

**EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn.** — The Eden Prairie Police Department arrested 18 impaired drivers during a *Safe & Sober* impaired driving campaign conducted throughout December. Extra patrols were added each weekend in December that focused exclusively on DWI detection and enforcement. The average blood alcohol content of the drivers arrested in Eden Prairie was .16 – twice the legal limit. The lowest level was .08. The highest was .30 – almost four times the legal limit.

Statewide, 3,361 DWI arrests were made during the December campaign. The Minnesota Department of Public Safety coordinated the effort that included more than 400 Minnesota law enforcement agency participants.

Depending on a variety of variables, a first-time DWI arrest can lead to a loss of license for 90 days. When factoring in increased insurance cost rates, legal and other fees, the expense of a DWI can cost up to nearly \$20,000. More than 471,700 Minnesotans have a DWI on record, meaning one in eight Minnesotans with a driver’s license has a DWI.

The enforcement campaign was a component of the Toward Zero Deaths (TZD) initiative, a partnership led by the Minnesota departments of Public Safety, Transportation and Health, and county engineers. TZD encourages local stakeholders to address traffic issues through enforcement, engineering, education and emergency trauma care response.

The *Safe & Sober* campaign is funded by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. The program is designed to reduce traffic-related fatalities and injuries.

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