

The Tyngsboro Police Encourage Safe Driving this Holiday Season

The Tyngsboro Police Department will partner with the Massachusetts State Police and hundreds of other local police departments to conduct extra traffic enforcement focused on arresting impaired drivers as part of a *Drunk Driving. Over the Limit. Under Arrest.* Mobilization December 12, 2008 through January 4, 2009. State and local police will conduct sobriety checkpoints and saturation patrols throughout the mobilization. The Executive Office of Public Safety and Security has provided \$700,000 in federal grant funding for this initiative for both enforcement and a public education campaign.

In an effort to keep Massachusetts roadways safer during this up-coming holiday season, the Tyngsboro Police Department offers these six travel tips:

- Drive sober and well-rested;
- Obey speed limits and allow extra time for unexpected traffic and weather conditions;
- If celebration plans involve alcoholic beverages, designate a sober driver before heading out or plan to use public transportation, take a taxi (program a cab company's phone number into your cell), or sleep over at the event location;
- Never accept a ride with an impaired driver;
- Report impaired drivers by dialing 911;
- Make sure everyone is properly buckled up – it's the best defense against a drunk, speeding or aggressive driver.

Additionally, those hosting holiday celebrations are urged to consider having ample non-alcoholic drinks available, do not serve alcohol to anyone under age 21, and prevent impaired guests from getting behind the wheel. More information is available at www.mass.gov/highwaysafety.

On average each week 300 people are arrested for impaired driving in Massachusetts. A first-time conviction for drunk driving in Massachusetts can cost more than \$7,800, plus the significant expenses involved with insurance surcharges and attorney services.

Have a Safe and Happy Holiday!

Chief William Mulligan