

Safety Message for the 4th of July Weekend

Presented by the Director of Public Information Sergeant Richard D. Bratz



The Delaware State Police would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday weekend as family and friends gather to enjoy summer activities.

As we take time this July 4th holiday to celebrate our Nation's freedoms, we must not forget the dangers that can arise from traveling on our roadways. The Delaware State Police will be patrolling the roadways this July 4th holiday weekend to ensure that everyone is safely driving with due care.

Troopers will be tasked with deterring, tracking, targeting and arresting impaired drivers to reduce traffic fatalities and serious injuries on our highways during this July 4th holiday weekend. Troopers will also be focusing on pedestrian safety and enforcement, distracted driving, motorists not wearing seat belts, unrestrained children in vehicles, and any aggressive driving behaviors such as speeding, following too close, and especially, driving under the influence. By following these easy steps, a driver can enjoy a safe holiday weekend travel without jeopardizing their life or the lives of others who may be on the road:

- Ensure all occupants are properly restrained.
- Plan a safe way home before the festivities begin.
- Before drinking, please designate a sober driver and give that person your keys. If you're impaired, use a taxi, call a sober friend or family member, or use public transportation so you are sure to get home safely.
- If you see a drunk or aggressive driver on the road, immediately contact 911 as soon as safely possible.
- If you know someone who is about to drive while impaired, take their keys and help them make other arrangements to get to where they are going safely.

The state police would also like to remind motorists of the following safety tips:

- Plan your trip before you embark on your journey.
- Have your car checked by a mechanic. Make sure all fluid levels are checked and your vehicle is in top running condition.
- Take a break every two hours on long trips and take turns driving. Studies have shown that weary drivers are just as much a threat as drunk drivers are on our highways.
- Don't let your children go to a rest stop alone. When

taking a break, always accompany your children to the rest area facilities.

As you begin your holiday weekend we would like cover a few safety tips to keep you and your family safe.

While Traveling

- **Be aware of current road conditions.**
- Park in well-lit and well-traveled areas
- Keep your car's doors locked at all times.
- Don't use cell phones or other electronic devices while driving.
- Don't place your baggage or other valuables in a place where criminals can easily see them.
- Park as close as you can to your destination and take notice of where you parked.
- When approaching or leaving your vehicle, be aware of your surroundings.
- Do not approach your car alone if there are suspicious people in the area.
- Don't drink and drive, and don't ride with anyone who has been drinking

While at your destination

- **Be aware of your surroundings**
- Beware of strangers approaching you for any reason.
- Be able to describe your exact location in an emergency situation.
- Teach your child to go and ask for help in case your

child is separated from you.

- Teach children to stay close to you at all times.
- Never allow children to make unaccompanied trips to the restroom.
- Children should never be allowed to go to the car alone or should never be left alone in a car.
- If you've had something stolen or have been the victim of a crime, it's important to report the details to the police immediately by calling 911.

The Delaware State Police would like to wish everyone an enjoyable and safe July 4th holiday weekend.

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