

Happy Thanksgiving – Holiday Travel Safety Tips

Delaware – The Delaware State Police wish everyone a happy holiday as family and friends gather to enjoy the Thanksgiving festivities.

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

Troopers will 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 safe holiday travel without jeopardizing their life or the lives of others 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 traveling this holiday we would like to cover a few safety tips to keep you and your family safe.

While Traveling

- Be aware of the current road conditions.
- Park in a 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 Happy Thanksgiving.

Added crime prevention tips while you are away from home.

-Remember to place your mail, packages, and newspaper on hold. Criminals notice when the mail piles up or newspapers are scattered on the lawn. Criminals know this is a good indication that you are out of town.

-Place your lights, televisions, and radios on timers. This provides the image that someone is home. Be sure to close all blinds to ensure a potential criminal does not have the ability to peer inside your residence and monitor activity.

-Be sure to lock all doors, windows, garage doors, storage sheds, vehicles, and gates prior to leaving your residence.

-Remember to set your security alarm system if you have one. Test your system prior to leaving, to ensure it is functioning

correctly. Ensure your personal contact information is also up-to-date; to ensure your alarm monitoring company has the ability to reach you.

-Have a close trustworthy friend or relative check on your residence while you are away.

-As excited as you may be to update your friends about your travel on social media, you may strongly wish to reconsider. Remember, anyone that is able to access your social media profile, will gain insight that you are away. Potential criminals pay attention to these details and could attempt to break into your home.

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Presented by the Director of Public Information, Sergeant Richard Bratz

Released: 112719 0951

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***UPDATE* Troopers Investigating Fatal Crash Involving a Tractor Trailer – Concord Pike, Wilmington**

Wilmington – The Delaware State Police Collision Reconstruction Unit is continuing to investigate a fatal motor vehicle crash that occurred on Tuesday night, November 26, 2019, at approximately 6:18 p.m., on southbound Concord Pike (US 202) north of Powder Mill Rd.

The initial investigation has determined that a 2015 Lexus RC350, operated by a 35 year old male from Wilmington, Delaware, was approaching the intersection of Powder Mill Rd. on southbound Rt. 202 when it left the roadway for an unknown reason and struck a light pole. The Lexus reentered the roadway and made a second impact with the left rear of a 2005 Mazda 3, operated by a 22 year old Wilmington man that was stopped in the center right lane of the intersection for a red traffic light. The Lexus continued traveling and made a third impact with the right side of a 2019 Volvo tractor trailer, operated by a 37 year old male from Reading, PA, who was also stopped for the red traffic light at the intersection. The Lexus came to a stop partially lodged underneath of the trailer.

The operators of the Mazda and Volvo tractor trailer were properly restrained and did not sustain any injuries as a result of the collision.

The 35 year old operator of the Lexus who was properly restrained, was transported to Christiana Hospital where he was pronounced deceased. Speed does not appear to be a contributing factor at this time, impairment on his behalf is

undetermined. Identification of the victim is pending notification of next of kin.

All lanes of US Route 202 southbound were closed north of Powder Mill Rd. for approximately 5 hours while the crash was investigated.

The investigation is ongoing and anyone with information is asked to contact Cpl. J. Breen of the Troop 2 Collision Reconstruction Unit by calling 302-365-8486.

Information may also be provided by calling Delaware crime stoppers at 1-800-TIP-3333 or via the internet at <http://www.delaware.crimestoppersweb.com>

Click on the following link to view the original release: [*TRAFFIC ADVISORY* Troopers Investigating Serious Crash Involving Tractor Trailer – Concord Pike Southbound Closed at Murphy Rd.](#)

If you or someone you know is a victim or witness of crime or have lost a loved one to a sudden death and are in need of assistance, the Delaware State Police Victim Services Unit/Delaware Victim Center is available to offer you support and resources 24 hours a day through a toll free hotline 1800 VICTIM-1. (1800 842-8461). You may also email the unit Director at debra.reed@state.de.us.

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Presented by Public Information Officer, Corporal/1 Jason Hatchell

Troopers Investigating Armed Robbery of Liquor Store-Dover

Dover- The Delaware State Police are investigating an armed robbery that took place at a liquor store last evening.

The incident occurred on November 26, 2019 at approximately 7:00 p.m., when Troopers were dispatched to the Route 8 Liquor store located at 4128 Forrest Ave, Dover, in reference to a robbery in which the store clerk was assaulted. Upon arrival, it was learned that a 59-year-old store clerk was working when he was approached by an unknown suspect who immediately physically assaulted him. The suspect then displayed a knife and demanded money. The employee turned over an undisclosed amount of cash. The suspect took the money and a telephone from the counter prior to fleeing the store. The employee declined medical treatment.

The suspect was described as a white male, wearing a dark colored sweatshirt, dark pants, a face mask, sunglasses and armed with a knife.

If anyone has any information in reference to this incident they are asked to contact Troop 3, Criminal Investigations Unit, Detective Campbell at 302-697-4454. Information may also be provided by calling [Delaware Crime Stoppers](http://www.delaware.crimestoppersweb.com) at 1-800-TIP-3333 or via the internet at www.delaware.crimestoppersweb.com.

If you or someone you know is a victim or witness of crime or have lost a loved one to a sudden death and are in need of assistance, the Delaware State Police Victim Services Unit/Delaware Victim Center is available to offer you support and resources 24 hours a day through a toll free hotline 1800 VICTIM-1. (1800 842-8461). You may also email the unit Director at debra.reed@delaware.gov.

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*Presented by Public Information Officer, Master Corporal
Melissa Jaffe*

Released: 112719 0838

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***TRAFFIC ADVISORY* Troopers**

Investigating Serious Crash Involving Tractor Trailer – Concord Pike Southbound Closed at Murphy Rd.

Wilmington – The Delaware State Police are currently on scene of a serious motor vehicle crash involving a tractor trailer that occurred at approximately 6:18 p.m., Tuesday, November 26, 2019 on southbound Concord Pike (US 202) in the area of Murphy Rd.

The roadway is anticipated to be closed for an extended period of time with no estimated time for a re-opening. Motorists are asked to avoid the area and seek alternate routes of travel.

For updated traffic conditions and road closure information log onto:
http://www.deldot.gov/Traffic/travel_advisory/index.shtml#advisories

The investigation is in the early stages with further details being released as they become available.

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Presented by Public Information Officer, Master Corporal
Michael Austin

Released:112619 1930

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Multi-Agency Crime Blitz Results in Mass Arrests – North Wilmington, Claymont

North Wilmington/Claymont – A multi-agency operation conducted on Thursday, November 21, 2019, at targeted locations in the North Wilmington and Claymont area has resulted in the arrests of 41 individuals on criminal charges.

The crime blitz focused on the Philadelphia Pike, Governor Printz Blvd, Lancaster Avenue, and Lea Blvd corridors as well as the greater Claymont vicinity. The operation was conducted in these areas to target criminal activity and to address ongoing quality of life issues.

During the eight-hour enforcement blitz, police arrested 41 individuals for either a criminal charge or outstanding capias resulting in the clearance of 50 active warrants. There were a total of 141 traffic and 41 criminal arrests made, as well as two DUI arrests during the crime initiative.

This initiative was a collaborative effort between the Delaware State Police, Wilmington Police Department, Newport Police Department, Newark Police Department, Delaware City

Police Department, Probation and Parole, Department of Corrections, and Justice of the Peace Court 11.

Seized during the operation were 2 firearms, .273 grams of Heroin (39 baggies), 95 Schedule II Pills, \$529.00 USC, 46.07 grams of Marijuana, 32.92 grams of Cocaine, .5 grams of Methamphetamine, and drug paraphernalia.

There were several noteworthy investigations. For example, Troopers observed a hand to hand transaction at the Knights Inn located at 7811 Governor Printz Boulevard between two individuals. A traffic stop was conducted on one of the involved parties who was found to be in possession of 9 grams of cocaine. Troopers returned to the motel and made contact with the second subject who was also in possession of 2 grams of cocaine. A search of the subject's motel room resulted in the recovery of a .38 caliber firearm along with 43 rounds of ammunition. Another motor vehicle stop was conducted for a traffic violation which resulted in the apprehension of a subject wanted for Robbery 1st by the New York City Police Department.

This combined effort highlights how the cooperation of multiple law enforcement agencies combat crime which in turn increases quality of life for the communities we serve.

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Presented by Public Information Officer, Corporal/1 Jason

Hatchell

Released:112619 1235

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Troopers Investigating Fatal Crash-Camden

Camden- The Delaware State Police Collision Reconstruction Unit are investigating a four car fatal motor vehicle collision that occurred Monday evening.

The incident occurred on November 25, 2019, at approximately 5:51 p.m., when a 2013 Chevy Express Van was traveling southbound on S. DuPont Highway (US 13) approaching Thomas Harmon Drive. A 2003 GMC Sierra was stopped/slowing in heavy traffic, which had backed up from the Thomas Harmon Drive light. A 2015 Mazda CX9 was stopped/slowing in traffic directly in front of the Sierra. A 2006 Ford Fusion was stopped/slowing in traffic directly in front of the Mazda. The operator of the Express Van failed to observe the traffic stopped in front of him and struck the rear of the Sierra. The impact caused a chain-reaction with the Sierra striking the rear of the Mazda, and the Mazda striking the rear of the Ford.

The driver of the Chevy Express van, a 53-year-old male of Harrington, DE was properly restrained and sustained minor injuries.

The driver of the Sierra, 35-year-old **Marcus Smith** of Dover, DE was properly restrained. Smith was transported to the Bayhealth Kent General Hospital where he was pronounced

deceased. A 26-year-old female passenger in this vehicle was properly restrained and sustained minor injuries.

The driver of the Mazda, a 51-year-old female of Magnolia, DE and her 23-year-old female passenger were both properly restrained and sustained minor injuries.

The driver of the Ford, a 37-year-old female of Dover, DE and her 39-year-old female passenger were both properly restrained and sustained minor injuries.

Southbound S. DuPont Highway in the area of Thomas Harmon Drive was closed for approximately five hours while the crash was investigated and cleared.

The crash continues to remain under investigation by the Delaware State Police Collision Reconstruction Unit.

If you or someone you know is a victim or witness of crime or have lost a loved one to a sudden death and are in need of assistance, the Delaware State Police Victim Services Unit/Delaware Victim Center is available to offer you support and resources 24 hours a day through a toll free hotline 1800 VICTIM-1. (1800 842-8461). You may also email the unit Director at debra.reed@delaware.gov

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Presented by Public Information Officer, Corporal Jason Hatchell

Released: 112619 1042

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State Police Investigating Industrial Accident-Laurel

Laurel- The Delaware State Police are investigating a fatal industrial accident that occurred yesterday afternoon.

The incident occurred on November 22, 2019 at approximately 3:45 p.m., when Troopers responded to the 31000 block of Jestice Farm Road, Laurel in reference to an industrial accident. Upon arrival, it was learned that a dump truck had struck a power line while unloading it's cargo. After striking the power line, the power line caught fire and fell to the ground. The operator exited and proceeded to the back of his truck and upon touching the truck was struck by electricity.

The victim, identified as 30-year-old **Bryan Dukes** of Easton, MD was transported to the Nanticoke Memorial Hospital where he was pronounced deceased.

If you or someone you know is a victim or witness of crime or have lost a loved one to a sudden death and are in need of assistance, the Delaware State Police Victim Services Unit/Delaware Victim Center is available to offer you support and resources 24 hours a day through a toll free hotline 1800 VICTIM-1. (1800 842-8461). You may also email the unit Director at debra.reed@delaware.gov.

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*Presented by Public Information Officer, Master Corporal
Melissa Jaffe*

Released: 112319 0814

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DSP S.O.A.R. Searching For Wanted Sex Offenders

Dover – The Delaware State Police Sex Offender Apprehension and Registration Unit (S.O.A.R) is currently looking for the following wanted sex offenders after they either failed to register or re-register their current address. If anyone knows the location of these subjects, they are asked to call 302-672-5306. Information may also be provided by calling Delaware Crime Stoppers at 1-800-TIP-3333, via the <http://www.delaware.crimestoppersweb.com/>

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*Presented by Public Information Officer, Master Corporal
Melissa Jaffe*

Released: 112219 1953

-End-

Homeless Sex Offender Notification

Dover— The following subjects are not wanted. This is a Homeless Sex Offender Public Notification. If you have information that the listed subjects are occupying a residence, please call 302-672-5306. Information may also be provided by calling Delaware Crime Stoppers at 1-800-TIP-3333, via the internet at <http://www.delaware.crimestoppersweb.com>.

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Presented by Public Information Officer, Master Corporal Melissa Jaffe

Released: 112219 1923

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***TRAFFIC ADVISORY* Troopers Investigating Serious Crash – Otts Chapel Rd., Newark**

Newark – The Delaware State Police are currently on scene of a serious motor vehicle crash that occurred at approximately 11:41 a.m., Friday, November 22, 2019 on Otts Chapel Rd. in the area of Welsh Tract Rd., Newark.

As a result of the crash Otts Chapel Rd. is closed. Motorists are advised to avoid the area and seek alternate routes of travel.

The investigation is in the early stages with further details being released as they become available.

For updated traffic conditions and road closure information log on to:

http://www.deldot.gov/Traffic/travel_advisory/index.shtml#advisories.

Presented by Public Information Officer, Master Corporal Michael Austin

Released: 112219 1255

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