



SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS

SHERIFF'S OFFICE
GARY STEED
Sheriff

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MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: November 16, 2007
AGENCY: SEDGWICK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
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THE SEDGWICK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE WILL BE PARTICIPATING IN THE KANSAS THANKSGIVING WEEK ENFORCEMENT CAMPAIGN, NOVEMBER 19-25, 2007. UNDERWRITTEN BY A GRANT FROM THE KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, MORE DEPUTIES WILL BE OUT ON STREETS AND HIGHWAYS TO AGGRESSIVELY ENFORCE KANSAS TRAFFIC LAWS. THEY WILL BE ESPECIALLY ALERT FOR IMPAIRED DRIVERS AND VEHICLE OCCUPANTS WHO ARE NOT BUCKLED UP – CHILDREN AND ADULTS.

FROM OCTOBER 2007 THROUGH SEPTEMBER OF NEXT YEAR, THE SEDGWICK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE WILL BE TEAMING WITH MANY OTHER KANSAS LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES TO DRAMATICALLY REDUCE THE NUMBER OF DEATHS AND INJURIES THAT ANNUALLY OCCUR DUE TO IMPAIRED DRIVING AND FAILURE TO BUCKLE UP. IMPAIRED DRIVING ENDANGERS EVERYONE. IN KANSAS, NEARLY SIX PERSONS EVERY DAY ARE KILLED OR INJURED IN ALCOHOL-RELATED CRASHES, MOST OF THEM INNOCENT. FURTHERMORE, NOT ONLY DO IMPAIRED DRIVERS ENDANGER OTHERS,

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BUT IN CRASHES THAT FOLLOW, DRIVERS AND PASSENGERS ARE 2 ½ TIMES MORE LIKELY TO BE KILLED OR INJURED THAN IN A NON ALCOHOL- RELATED CRASH. ALMOST 18,000 DUI ARRESTS WERE MADE LAST YEAR IN KANSAS AND GREAT EFFORTS ARE BEING MADE AT FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL LEVELS TO INCREASE BOTH THE NUMBER OF ARRESTS AND THE NUMBER OF CONVICTIONS.

FAILURE TO BUCKLE UP IS ALSO NEEDLESSLY KILLING AND MAIMING KANSANS. THOSE WHO DO NOT BUCKLE UP ARE ABOUT 12 TIMES MORE LIKELY TO BE KILLED AND ALMOST TWICE AS LIKELY TO BE INJURED AS THOSE WHO DO BUCKLE UP. HIDDEN BY THESE STATISTICS IS THE FACT THAT INJURIES SUFFERED BY THOSE WHO ARE UNBUCKLED ARE LIKELY TO BE MUCH MORE SEVERE AND DISABLING THAN THOSE SUFFERED WHEN BUCKLED UP. A COUPLE OF THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND: ALWAYS WEAR YOUR SEATBELT- IT CAN SAVE YOUR LIFE AND SAVE YOUR CASH. REMEMBER, "CLICK IT OR TICKET", AND PLAN AHEAD. IF YOU ARE GOING TO BE DRINKING, DON'T CONSIDER DRIVING HOME; ARRANGE FOR A RIDE WITH A NON-DRINKING FRIEND.

MEDIA RIDE ALONGS ARE ENCOURAGED.

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<http://www.sedgwickcounty.org/sheriff>