



SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS

SHERIFF'S OFFICE
GARY STEED
Sheriff

141 WEST ELM * WICHITA, KANSAS 67203 * TELEPHONE: (316) 383-7264 * FAX: (316) 383-7758

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: AUGUST 15, 2006
AGENCY: SEDGWICK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
LOCATION: 141 W. ELM, WICHITA, KS 67203
TELEPHONE: (316) 660-3760 OR (316) 383-7184
CONTACT: SGT. WAYNE RUFFNER OR SGT. GARY FARTHING

YOU DRINK, YOU DRIVE, YOU LOSE

COMING OUR WAY SOON IS THE ANNUAL *YOU DRINK, YOU DRIVE, YOU LOSE* ENFORCEMENT CAMPAIGN, SUPPORTED BY A GRANT FROM THE KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (KDOT) TO THE SEDGWICK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE. DURING THE PERIOD, AUGUST 17 THROUGH LABOR DAY, SEPTEMBER 4, ADDITIONAL DEPUTIES WILL BE PLACED ON AREA ROADWAYS TO AGGRESSIVELY ENFORCE ALL KANSAS TRAFFIC LAWS, WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON IMPAIRED DRIVING. LAST YEAR, ALMOST 18,000 ARRESTS WERE MADE ACROSS KANSAS FOR DUI (DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE).

ACCORDING TO THE KANSAS DRUNK DRIVING PREVENTION OFFICE, "ON AN AVERAGE DAY IN KANSAS, SIX PERSONS ARE KILLED OR INJURED IN ALCOHOL-RELATED CRASHES, AND 50 ARE ARRESTED FOR DUI. PAIN AND LOSS RIPPLES OUT FROM EACH INCIDENT, INDISCRIMINATELY STRIKING SPOUSE, CHILD, SIBLING, FRIEND, EMPLOYER, AND CO-WORKER. THE REST OF US ARE AFFECTED AS WELL: ALCOHOL RELATED CRASHES IN KANSAS COST ITS CITIZENS NEARLY \$1.44 BILLON ANNUALLY IN LOST PRODUCTIVITY, MEDICAL COSTS, PROPERTY DAMAGE, AND OTHER DIRECT EXPENDITURES". THIS DOES NOT INCLUDE THE MILLIONS OF TAX DOLLARS SPENT YEARLY ON DUI ENFORCEMENT, PROSECUTION, INTAKE, INCARCERATION, MONITORING, AND DRIVERS' LICENSE HEARINGS/SUSPENSIONS AND ADMINISTRATIVE COTS.

THE SEDGWICK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE IS AMONG 130 LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES ACROSS THE STATE, INCLUDING THE KANSAS HIGHWAY PATROL, WHICH WILL PARTICIPATE IN ***YOU DRINK, YOU DRIVE, YOU LOSE***. THEIR AIM IS TO DRASTICALLY REDUCE THE NUMBER OF PREVENTABLE DEATHS AND INJURIES THAT OCCUR WHEN ALCOHOL IS MIXED WITH DRIVING. THIS COMBINATION IS PARTICULARLY DANGEROUS. ACCORDING TO KDOT'S BUREAU OF TRAFFIC SAFETY, IF YOU ARE INVOLVED IN AN ALCOHOL-RELATED CRASH, YOU ARE EIGHT (8) TIMES MORE LIKELY TO BE KILLED, AND TWO-AND-A-HALF (2 ½) TIMES MORE LIKELY TO BE INJURED, THAN IF YOU ARE INVOLVED IN A NON-ALCOHOL RELATED CRASH. THE RATIO OF DEATH TO INJURY IN ALCOHOL-RELATED CRASHES IS THREE (3) TIMES HIGHER THAN THAT FOR NON-ALCOHOL RELATED CRASHES. LAST YEAR, TRAFFIC CRASHES CLAIMED THE LIVES OF FOUR-HUNDRED, TWENTY-EIGHT (428) PEOPLE. TRAGICALLY, MORE THAN ONE-IN-FIVE WERE DUE TO ALCOHOL.

ALWAYS REMEMBER: EVERYONE'S BEST PROTECTION AGAINST A DRUNK DRIVER IS WEARING THEIR SEATBELT – ALL THE TIME.

#####