



SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS

SHERIFF'S OFFICE
ROBERT HINSHAW
Sheriff

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MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: November 20, 2009
AGENCY: SEDGWICK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
LOCATION: WICHITA/SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS
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DRIVERS IN SEDGWICK COUNTY SHOULD BE AWARE OF HEIGHTENED TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT IN NOVEMBER AS ADDITIONAL DEPUTIES FROM THE SEDGWICK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE WILL BE PLACED ON ROADWAYS TO AGGRESSIVELY ENFORCE ALL KANSAS TRAFFIC LAWS. SUPPORTED BY A GRANT FROM THE KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, THE DEPUTIES WILL BE PARTICIPATING IN THE KANSAS **THANKSGIVING TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT MOBILIZATION**, NOVEMBER 23-29. DEPUTIES WILL BE ESPECIALLY VIGILANT IN FINDING IMPAIRED DRIVERS AND OCCUPANTS WHO ARE NOT BUCKLED UP.

KANSAS LAW REQUIRES ALL FRONT SEAT PASSENGERS BE BUCKLED IN AND ALLOWS VEHICLES TO BE STOPPED IF A PERSON UNDER THE AGE OF 18 IS OBSERVED UNRESTRAINED ANYWHERE IN THE VEHICLE. IN THE EVENT THAT A PASSENGER UNDER THE AGE OF 14 IS UNRESTRAINED, THE DRIVER WILL BE CITED. WHERE A DRIVER OR

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PASSENGER, AGED 14 THOROUGH 17, IS SEEN TO BE UNRESTRAINED, THAT PERSON WILL BE CITED. CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF FOUR MUST BE SECURED IN A FEDERALLY-APPROVED CHILD SAFETY SEAT; CHILDREN, AGES FOUR THROUGH SEVEN, MUST BE SECURELY BELTED IN TO AN APPROVED BOOSTER SEAT; AND CHILDREN, AGES EIGHT THROUGH 13, MUST BE SAFETY BELTED.

THOSE WHO DO NOT BUCKLE UP ARE ABOUT 12 TIMES MORE LIKELY TO BE KILLED AND ALMOST TWICE AS LIKELY TO SUFFER INJURY AS THOSE WHO DO BUCKLE UP, SHOULD A CRASH OCCUR.

IMPAIRED DRIVERS ENDANGER EVERYONE AROUND THEM. IN KANSAS, NEARLY SIX PERSONS EVERY DAY ARE KILLED OR INJURED IN ALCOHOL RELATED CRASHES. NOT ONLY DO IMPAIRED DRIVERS ENDANGER OTHERS, BUT IN THE CRASHES THAT FOLLOW, DRIVERS AND PASSENGERS ARE OVER 2 ½ TIMES MORE LIKELY TO BE KILLED OR INJURED.

THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE REMAINS COMMITTED TO MAKING THE ROADWAYS SAFE FOR THE DRIVING PUBLIC. MEDIA RIDE ALONGS ARE ENCOURAGED AND CAN BE ARRANGED THROUGH SGT. TROY WELLS.

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