



MEDIA RELEASE

April 23, 2010

Southern Maryland Law Enforcement Conduct Joint Checkpoint Strikeforce Sobriety Checkpoint

On Friday, April 23, 2010, officers from St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office in cooperation with the Maryland State Police and the Calvert County Sheriff's Office will conduct a joint border to border sobriety checkpoint. Checkpoints are designed not only to arrest impaired drivers, deter others from driving impaired, and raise public awareness of law enforcement and other efforts to reduce and enforce impaired driving laws.

Recently, the percentage of fatalities in motor vehicles crashes involving impaired driving in St. Mary's County has been as high as 60 percent. The national average is only 41 percent. Law enforcement throughout Southern Maryland will join forces this weekend to combat this problem.

The average age of driver's arrested for driving a motor vehicle while impaired in St. Mary's County is between 33-46 years of age. Driving impaired poses a danger to the community and impacts innocent people, not just the impaired driver. Impaired driving results in motor vehicles crashes resulting property damage, personal injuries, and even death. This does not take into account the other costs to society, including the cost of emergency response by fire and rescue, law enforcement, state and local highway maintenance and repair, medical expenses, funeral costs, time lost from work.

Driving impaired is unacceptable and preventable. Travelers should expect to come upon sobriety checkpoints throughout Southern Maryland as they travel through each county. Law enforcement and the State Highway Administration encourage responsibility. If you are out this weekend and plan to consume alcoholic beverages - be smart; designate a driver or find another safe and sober way home. If you do not have safe and sober transportation plan then stay put. Individual who chose to drive a motor vehicle, are under the influence and over the legal limit for alcoholic beverage consumption and are stopped by law enforcement - will be arrested.

Be Smart and Safe.