



MEDIA RELEASE

November 29, 2012

St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office to Conduct Sobriety Checkpoints & DWI Saturation Patrols

Beginning this week, St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office will conduct sobriety checkpoints and driving while intoxicated saturation patrols at undisclosed locations throughout St. Mary's County. These traffic safety initiatives are an effort to crack down on impaired drivers and those driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol. The sobriety checkpoints and saturation patrols are in addition to the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office Maximum Deployment Holiday Safety Initiative.

The sobriety checkpoints will be clearly marked with signs, lights and uniformed officers. Officers' primary objective will be to check for violations including driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs. They will also use this opportunity to heighten awareness about the dangers associated with drunk driving and send a clear message that checkpoints are but one tool in the arsenal used to combat drunk driving.

Maryland has a zero tolerance law which means that individuals under the age of 21 are subject to arrest and license suspension or revocation for any amount of alcohol in their blood. For those of legal drinking age, Maryland's alcohol limit is .08, which can be caused by consuming as little as one drink over a one-hour period. In addition, Maryland is tougher than most states in that, a breath alcohol content (BAC) of .07 can also lead to a driving while under the influence of alcohol arrest. Beware of the false sense of security, Maryland law enforcement have the tools needed to keep impaired drivers off the road and responsible motorists safe.

Sheriff Timothy K. Cameron would like to remind citizens to plan ahead: always designate a sober driver; call a taxi or take public transportation if you are impaired, and don't let others who are impaired take to the road. For more information contact DFC James Stone #183 at 301-863-4816 ext. 1458