



News Release

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UPCOMING SOBRIETY CHECKPOINTS & HOLIDAY PATROLS

The Hanover County Sheriff's Office will conduct a Sobriety Checkpoint in Hanover on **Friday, November 23; Saturday, December 1; and Friday, December 28, 2007**. The exact time and location is not being released. Officers will stop all vehicles passing through the checkpoint. Drivers will be advised of the purpose of the checkpoint and requested to present their driver's licenses. Any driver suspected of operating a vehicle while under the influence of drugs or alcohol will be directed to a safe area off the roadway for further observation and possible testing for intoxication.

The Hanover County Sheriff's Office will also be conducting a series of DUI Patrols in Hanover from **Thanksgiving week** through **New Year's Day**, as well as participating in the Fall Click It or Ticket Enforcement Wave from **November 18-25, 2007**. The exact times and locations are not being released.

Unfortunately the holidays are linked to one of the deadliest times of the year on the Commonwealth's highways. Statistics from the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles indicate there is an increase in alcohol-related traffic crashes and fatalities during the holidays. Although some headway has been made in reducing the number of intoxicated drivers, an increase in the death rate and the average blood alcohol content of tested drunk drivers indicates significantly more progress is needed.

The maximum penalty in Virginia for the first conviction of driving under the influence is 12 months in jail, a \$2,500 fine and a 12-month suspension of driving privileges. In addition, there is a civil penalty of \$750 every year for the next three years.

Hanover County Traffic Data	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Vehicle Crashes	1306	1402	1453	1454	1324
Alcohol Related Crashes	104	116	141	140	147
Alcohol Related Crashes With Injuries	57	54	64	59	77
Persons Injured In Alcohol Related Crashes	71	73	76	83	109
Fatality Crashes	9	11	13	7	11
Alcohol Related Fatalities	0	1	4	3	3
DUI Arrests	202	277	297	337	294

NOTE: As of November 1, 2007, Hanover County has experienced thirteen accident-related fatalities. Six of the thirteen fatalities have been attributed to speed and/or alcohol. A similar increase in roadway fatalities has been reported in other jurisdictions across the state.

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