



News Release

December 21, 2006

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UPCOMING SOBRIETY CHECKPOINT & TRAFFIC CHECKPOINT

The Hanover County Sheriff's Office will conduct *sobriety checkpoints* in Hanover on **Friday, December 22nd and Saturday, December 23rd, 2006**. The exact time and location is not being released. Officers will stop all vehicles passing through the checkpoint. Each driver will be advised of the purpose of the checkpoint and requested to present their drivers' license. Any driver suspected of operating a vehicle while under the influence of drugs or alcohol will be directed to a safe area off of the roadway for further observation and possible testing for intoxication.

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 winter holiday season. Although some head way 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 for driving under the influence is 12 months in jail, a \$2500 fine and a 12 – month suspension of driving privileges.

Sergeant Drew Darby will be available for interviews on the 22nd and 23rd and can be reached at 839-1724.