



## News Release

May 21, 2008

Contact: Lt. Michael J. Trice (804) 365-6292

### UPCOMING SOBRIETY & TRAFFIC CHECKPOINTS

The Hanover County Sheriff's Office will be conducting a *License Checkpoint & Sobriety Checkpoint* in Hanover on **Friday, May 23, 2008**. 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 driver's license. 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* throughout Hanover during the **Memorial Day Weekend**. 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 \$2500 fine and a 12-month suspension of driving privileges.

Hanover County Traffic Data*	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
	Vehicle Crashes	1402	1453	1454	1324
Alcohol Related Crashes	116	141	140	147	114
Alcohol Related Crashes With Injuries	54	64	59	77	54
Persons Injured In Alcohol Related Crashes	73	76	83	109	73
Fatality Crashes	11	13	7	11	17
Alcohol Related Fatalities	1	4	3	3	2
DUI Arrests	277	297	337	294	292

\*Data does not included incidents on the interstates.