



**News Release**

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**UPCOMING SOBRIETY CHECKPOINTS & DUI Patrols**

The Hanover County Sheriff's Office will be conducting a Sobriety Checkpoint Blitz in Hanover on **Sunday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009**. The exact time and locations are not being released. Officers will stop all vehicles passing through each 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.

In addition to multiple checkpoints, the Hanover County Sheriff's Office will be conducting several DUI Patrols throughout the Super Bowl weekend.

Statistics from the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles indicate there is an increase in intoxicated drivers and alcohol-related traffic crashes on Super Bowl Sunday. 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 of driving under the influence is 12 months in jail, a \$2500 fine and a 12 – month suspension of driving privileges.

<b>Hanover County Traffic Data</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>
<b>Vehicle Crashes</b>	1453	1454	1324	1425	1360
<b>Alcohol Related Crashes</b>	141	140	147	114	131
<b>Alcohol Related Crashes With Injuries</b>	64	59	77	54	66
<b>Persons Injured In Alcohol Related Crashes</b>	76	83	109	73	93
<b>Fatality Crashes</b>	13	7	11	17	6
<b>Alcohol Related Fatalities</b>	4	3	3	2	4
<b>DUI Arrests</b>	297	337	294	292	398