



Be Prepared for July 4th DWI Enforcement

June 21st, 2010

LA PORTE - The Multi-Jurisdictional DWI Taskforce involving many local Law Enforcement Entities is participating in a County/Region wide July 4th Weekend No-Refusal D.W.I. Enforcement Program hosted by La Porte Police Department.

Member agencies: Bay Area Council On Drugs and Alcohol, Bayshore Medical Center, Baytown Police Department, County District Attorney's Office, Deer Park Police Department, Harris County Constable Precinct 8, Harris County Sheriff's Office, Houston Galveston Area Council, Houston Police Department, La Porte Police Department, Mothers Against Drunk Driving, Morgan's Point Police Department, Pasadena Police Department, Shore Acres Police Department, Southeast Harris Community Coalition, Texas Department of Public Safety.

During the July 4th weekend law enforcement agencies will be participating in a No-Refusal DWI enforcement program. This is a coordinated effort between local law enforcement, the County Sheriff and our District Attorney. Throughout Southeast Harris County, law enforcement officers will be drafting evidentiary search warrants for blood when intoxicated drivers refuse to submit to a breath alcohol test.

2008 Texas Statistical Data:

- 3,382 total accident fatality accidents
- 1,616 of the total were alcohol related
- Texas leads the nation in alcohol related fatalities.
- DWI fatalities are calculated to be 1.2 times higher than that of murders in Texas.
- Since October 2001 there have been 5483 service personnel killed in the line of duty. This number pales in comparison to the number lost to drunk drivers in our state alone.
- Texas has seen the death of 12,634 people at the hands of drivers with an alcohol concentration of 0.01 and up. This number does not even include those killed in Texas during 2009 or 2010 to date. Without those deaths we are still at a rate of 2.3 times the number of persons killed at war as an entire country.

Harris County law enforcement, the District Attorney's Office, and the Bay Area Council on Drugs & Alcohol, Inc. (BACODA) propose a joint press conference at the La Porte Police Department. The facility will have a vehicle wrecked around a pole being delivered on a transportable display trailer (provided by the Cypress Creek Vol. Fire Dept.). Around the staged vehicle there will also be signage to raise the awareness level about drinking and driving and the consequences.

A flag field will also be set up with a flag to represent each person killed in Harris County in an alcohol related fatality. Additionally, Chiefs from each participating agency will be present with one of their marked police vehicles staged for the event.

Yearly, Texas leads the nation in alcohol related crash fatalities. In Harris County BACODA will be pro-actively enforcing and educating the public that enough is enough. The statistical data reveals that their efforts in the legislature, the judicial system and enforcement efforts need to continue in order to make a major impact on D.W.I. related fatalities. By working with local judges, the District Attorney's Office and law enforcement through a coordinated county-wide effort, BACODA plans to make an impact via enforcement and education. Hopefully in Harris County everyone will have a safe and happy holiday while enjoying the beautiful amenities the County has to offer. However, responsible drinking is strongly encouraged. BACODA expresses their hope that, after this educational component, whenever a person considers getting behind the wheel of a car after consuming alcohol they will think twice about the consequences.