

2012



Crackdown

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## **City of Missoula Police Department Joins National Crackdown To Reduce Impaired Driving Fatalities**

If you drink and drive in Missoula, beware: The Missoula Police Department is joining with law enforcement agencies throughout the nation for the “Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over” campaign, running from now until Sept. 3.

The strong nationwide crackdown on impaired driving will include high-visibility enforcement and high-profile events. It will be supported by national paid advertising, creating a comprehensive campaign to curb alcohol-impaired driving in August and through the Labor Day holiday weekend.

The Missoula Police Department officers will be aggressively looking for impaired drivers during the crackdown and will arrest anyone caught driving impaired. Extra shifts will be on hand for the effort.

It is illegal in all 50 States, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico to drive with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .08 grams per deciliter. Despite these laws, in 2010 more than 10,000 people died in crashes in which a driver or motorcycle rider was impaired.

“On average, there is one alcohol- impaired driving-related fatality every 51 minutes across America. But this tragic loss of life can be reduced if we get impaired drivers off our roadways,” said Sgt. Greg Amundsen. “Research has shown that high-visibility enforcement like the ‘Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over’ campaign reduces alcohol-impaired driving fatalities by as much as 20 percent. By joining this nationwide effort, we will make Missoula, Montana’s roadways safer for everyone throughout the Labor Day period.”

During the Labor Day weekend in 2010, 147 people nationally were killed in motor vehicle traffic crashes involving drivers or motorcycle riders with BACs of .08 or higher. Of those fatalities, 80 percent occurred from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. Five of the fatalities were in Montana.

Among 18- to 34-year-old drivers killed in motor vehicle traffic crashes during the 2010 Labor Day weekend, 54 percent were alcohol-impaired.

“Obviously, we want to remind everyone that it is illegal to drive impaired, and we hope the campaign will remind people that if they plan on drinking they should never get behind the wheel,” Amundsen said. “But if someone does choose to drive impaired, we will arrest them. No warnings. No excuses.”

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According Amundsen, violators face jail time, loss of their drivers' licenses and steep financial consequences such as higher insurance rates, attorney fees, court costs, lost time at work, and the potential loss of job. When family, friends and co-workers find out, violators also often face tremendous personal embarrassment.

"Driving impaired is simply not worth the risk. So don't take the chance. Remember, we will be out in force, and we will be watching, so 'Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over,' " he said.

For more information, visit the "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" Campaign Headquarters at [www.nhtsa.gov/drivesober](http://www.nhtsa.gov/drivesober).

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