



PARSONS POLICE DEPARTMENT

217 NORTH CENTRAL • PARSONS, KANSAS 67357

421-7062 ADMINISTRATION • 911 EMERGENCY • 421-7060 OTHER CALLS • 421-7081 FAX

PRESS RELEASE ***Thanksgiving Safe Arrival***

For Immediate Release

Contact: Sergeant Jason Ludwig

Phone: (620) 421-7060

Email: jludwig@parsonspd.com

“Every 10th driver on the roadway could be driving impaired (alcohol and/or drugs) according to research by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)” says Parsons Police Sergeant Jason Ludwig. “This holiday season we want to see everyone **arrive alive.**”

Beginning Monday, November 19, through Sunday, November 25, the Parsons Police Department will join many other police agencies across the state, including the Kansas Highway Patrol, in the Kansas ***Thanksgiving Safe Arrival*** traffic enforcement campaign. A grant from the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) will underwrite overtime enforcement efforts that specifically aim at removing impaired drivers from our roads and ticketing vehicle occupants who are unrestrained or whose child passengers are unrestrained.

According to KDOT, which tracks all crashes in the state, the day before Thanksgiving sees more impairment-related crashes than any other day of the year. Those driving under the influence of

alcohol or other drugs endanger not only themselves, but also others they share the road with – such as their passengers, other motorists and their passengers, bicyclists and pedestrians. On average, across Kansas, **three** persons are injured every day, and **one** person is killed every four days in alcohol/drug-related crashes. And the crashes tend to be more severe. Vehicle occupants in alcohol- or other drug-related crashes are **over 2 ½** times more likely to be injured or killed than those involved in crashes where alcohol or other drugs were not a factor.

Each week across Kansas, over 250 drivers are arrested for DUI (**Driving Under the Influence**). A DUI conviction will result in jail time, the suspension or revocation of driver's license, a fine of \$500 to \$2,500, participation in an alcohol or other drug treatment program and, where alcohol is cited as a contributing factor, the purchase and installation of an ignition interlock device by the offender. This device requires the offender to blow into a device that measures blood alcohol concentration prior to starting the car. It's embarrassing and a hassle.

Also responsible for needless death and maiming is the failure by many teens and adults to simply buckle up themselves, or to properly buckle up child passengers. Twice as many Kansans who die from a crash are unrestrained as are restrained. Even worse is the fact that injuries suffered by those who are unbuckled are likely to be much more severe and disabling than injuries suffered by those who are buckled in. This applies regardless of speed, and whether the occurrence is on a city street, a county road, or a highway.

According to Chief Robert Spinks, "Keep in mind that if you are going to be drinking, a designated driver can be a life-saver, especially during the holiday season arrange to ride with a non-drinking acquaintance. Don't let pride or concerns for your convenience endanger your life and the lives of innocent others." Spinks continued "Drivers always wear your seatbelt and don't move the vehicle until each person riding with you is buckled in. This is your best defense against death and injury, it is their best defense, and it is the law. You will live with the consequences – good or bad – the rest of your life. By always following these simple rules, you can preserve life – maybe your life – and certainly your cash. We want everyone to **safely arrive** for the holidays."