

NEWS RELEASE

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KDOT Event to Illustrate the High Price of Drunk Driving Major Enforcement Effort Seeks to Save Lives

WICHITA, Kan. – Kansas law is clear: If you drive drunk, you will see the inside of a jail cell. A media event Aug. 20 at the Sedgwick County Jail is designed to drive that point home.

Law enforcement and traffic safety officials will gather for a demonstration of the intake process, to give Kansas motorists something sobering to think about before they get behind the wheel.

Featured speakers will include Sedgwick County Sheriff Robert Hinshaw, who will lead the demonstration; District Court Judge Phil Journey, who helped strengthen the state’s drunk driving statutes as a legislator and who will describe the penalties called for in the law; and Kansas Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor Karen Wittman, who will poke holes in the urban legends that claim there are ways to “beat the system.”

Kansas law enforcement takes drunk driving very seriously because of the unacceptable toll it takes on lives and property. In 2008, there were 131 alcohol-related fatalities, 3,366 alcohol-related crashes, and nearly 2,000 alcohol-related injuries throughout the state.

The media event will take place at 10 a.m., Thursday, Aug. 20, at the Sedgwick County Jail squad room, 141 W. Elm, Wichita (phone number is 316.660.3900).

Kansas law enforcement agencies will team up with law enforcement and traffic safety advocates across the nation from Aug. 21 through the Labor Day holiday to take part in a crackdown on impaired driving. The national campaign, organized by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), combines high-visibility enforcement with heightened public awareness efforts. The message is simple: If you’re over the limit, you’re under arrest.

For more information, visit www.StopImpairedDriving.org.

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