



NEWS RELEASE

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**MOTORISTS' LAST '09 RESOLUTION:
MAKE IT TO 2010 — ALIVE AND OUT OF JAIL**
Heightened New Year's Eve DWI Enforcement

ST. PAUL — The clock is ticking for New Year's Eve revelers to make a plan for a safe and sober ride. Around 400 Minnesota law enforcement agencies will wrap-up a December-long DWI crackdown with heightened patrols tomorrow night, Dec. 31.

New Year's Eve continues to be a dangerous night for impaired driving. During the last five Minnesota New Year's (2004–2008), 1,688 motorists were arrested for DWI and alcohol-related crashes accounted for six of the 21 traffic deaths.

Minnesota Department of Public Safety officials say motorists need to plan in advance for a sober ride: call a cab, use public transportation, designate a sober driver, or “crash” at the location of the celebration, rather than crashing on the road.

“The countdown is on, if you're planning on partying for New Year's, now is the time to plan how you're going to get home safely,” says Capt. Matt Langer of the State Patrol. “The last place you want to ring in the New Year is in jail.”

DWI arrest results from the December-long campaign will be announced early January 2010.



- Alcohol and Gambling Enforcement
- Bureau of Criminal Apprehension
- Driver and Vehicle Services
- Emergency Communication Networks
- Homeland Security and Emergency Management
- Minnesota State Patrol
- Office of Communications
- Office of Justice Programs
- Office of Traffic Safety
- State Fire Marshal