



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 7th, 2016
CONTACT: Alison Deters, 307-389-0428, Alison_deters@rswy.net

This Holiday Season, The Rock Springs Police Department Is Looking for Drunk Drivers *Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over*

Rock Springs Wyoming- This holiday season, The Rock Springs Police Department will be out looking for drunk drivers as part of a special year-end *Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over* enforcement mobilization.

“Beginning December 16 and continuing into the New Year, you will see stepped up enforcement watching closely for anyone who is driving impaired,” said Chief Dwane Pacheco. “We want to keep our roads safe for holiday travelers, so we will have zero tolerance for drunk driving.”

With the excitement of holiday parties and celebrations, too many drivers are taking to the roadways after drinking. Data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) shows that any decision to drive while impaired can have serious and even deadly consequences. Nationally in 2015, 35,092 people were killed in motor vehicle traffic crashes, and 29 percent (10,265) died in crashes where the driver had a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) over the limit of .08.

From 2011-2015, 14,034 people lost their lives in motor vehicle traffic crashes during the month of December, and twenty-eight percent (3,983) died in a crash that involved a driver with a BAC of .08 or higher.

“This ought to be the ‘most wonderful time of the year,’ so we will do what it takes to help save lives by keeping our roads safe,” said Chief Dwane Pacheco. “If you choose to drive impaired, not only will you risk your safety, and that of others, but you will also face the legal consequences.”

Drunk driving offenders often serve jail time, lose their driver’s license, are charged higher insurance rates, and pay dozens of other unanticipated expenses ranging from attorney fees, court costs, car towing and repairs, and lost wages due to time off from work. But the ultimate cost of drunk driving is causing a traffic crash that injures or kills.

The Rock Springs Police Department recommends these safe alternatives to drinking and driving.

- Plan a safe way home before the fun begins.
- Designate a sober driver or call for a ride or taxi.

- Download Drive Sober Wyoming mobile app at http://www.wygcid.org/Smart_Phone_App.html
- If you see a drunk driver on the road, don't hesitate to contact the Rock Springs Police Department.
- If you know people who are about to drive or ride after drinking, take their keys and help them make other arrangements to get to where they are going safely.

Along with the enhanced enforcement effort, the Rock Springs Police Department is urging drivers to help keep Wyoming's roadways safe by calling the Report Every Drunk Driver Immediately (REDDI) hotline number at 1-800-442-9090 to report suspected drunk drivers. Callers should be prepared to provide the dispatcher with a description of the vehicle, its location, and direction of travel.

As of this release there have been 110 traffic deaths in Wyoming in 2016, compared to 139 this time last year.

Remember, it is never safe to drink and drive. The Rock Springs Police Department will be looking for drunk drivers.

Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over.

