

## CPD to increase patrols through end of November

Written by Administrator

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During the 2008 Thanksgiving holiday period, 15 people lost their lives in Indiana traffic crashes. More than 66 percent of those fatalities were alcohol related. Additionally, in more than two-thirds of the fatal collisions that occurred around Thanksgiving, the person killed was not wearing a seat belt.

In an effort to prevent senseless injuries and fatalities from occurring on Indiana's roadways this Thanksgiving holiday season, Chief Steve Dean, recently announced that the Charlestown Police Department will join the Indiana State Police and more than 250 law enforcement agencies throughout the state to conduct the Safe Family Travel enforcement blitz.

Safe Family Travel is a statewide, annual enforcement campaign that combines high visibility seat belt and impaired driving patrols. The effort will take place Friday, November 13 through Sunday, November 29. During this time, Indiana law enforcement officers will work thousands of overtime hours., day and night, to ensure that motorists are driving responsibly and traveling safely on the state's roadways.

"Far too many Hoosiers are losing their lives on our roadways. While we want Charlestown residents to enjoy the Thanksgiving holiday, we expect motorists to celebrate responsibly by using their seat belts and designating a sober driver before festivities begin," said Chief Dean. "It only takes a few seconds to plan ahead and save a life," he concluded.

Although nationwide more people are using seat belts than ever before, far too many people are still now buckling up and are paying the ultimate price. Studies from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) have consistently shown that wearing a seat belt increases one's chances of surviving a crash by more than 50 percent.

Safe Family Travel is a statewide enforcement effort that is funded with federal dollars awarded to Indiana from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). The effort encompasses seat belt and impaired driving initiatives.