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## **St. Croix County Sheriff's Office to crack down on drunken motorists during the 'Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over' campaign**

There were more than 24,000 convictions for drunken driving last year in Wisconsin. That means far too many people made the reckless and irresponsible decision to put their lives and the lives of others in grave danger by driving drunk. To combat drunken driving, the St. Croix County Sheriff's Office will join hundreds of other law enforcement agencies throughout Wisconsin participating in the annual "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" national campaign from Aug. 21 to Sept. 7.

"Although drunken driving is 100 percent preventable, on average someone is killed or injured in an alcohol-related crash in Wisconsin every three hours," says Sheriff John Shilts. "During the Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over crackdown campaign, my deputies will be out in force to arrest drunken drivers before they kill or injure themselves or an innocent victim."

"My deputies are well trained in identifying the signs of impaired driving," Sheriff Shilts stated. So if you're ever faced with the choice of getting behind the wheel while impaired vs. giving up your car keys, please consider the following:

- A drunken driving arrest can cause major embarrassment, expensive penalties, suspension or revocation of your driver's license and mandatory installation of an ignition interlock device on your vehicles.
- If you injure or kill someone while driving drunk you will face a jail sentence.
- In addition to severe financial and legal penalties, you will suffer a lifetime of guilt if you injure or kill an innocent victim.
- Because of its serious consequences, driving drunk likely will be a decision you'll regret the rest of your life.

Rather than risk a drunken driving arrest or crash, Sheriff Shilts urges you to follow these common sense suggestions:

- Choose a sober designated driver before you start drinking.
- If you're feeling buzzed, you likely are over the 0.08 BAC limit and should not drive.
- Take a taxicab or ask a sober friend to drive you home.

- The Zero In Wisconsin traffic safety program has a free “Drive Sober” mobile app that can be downloaded by visiting [zeroinwisconsin.gov](http://zeroinwisconsin.gov)
- Some taverns and restaurants have programs to provide patrons with a safe ride home. Visit [www.tlw.org/](http://www.tlw.org/) and click on Safe Ride.
- Report impaired drivers to law enforcement by calling 911.