

Good morning, thanks for coming out.

All throughout the year we remind the public of highway safety, and particularly driving during holiday weekends when traffic volume is substantially higher.

This Labor Day weekend, it is expected that more than **34 million** Americans will travel **50 miles or more** from home, with as many as 688,000 people expected to travel here in Wisconsin. Many will be hauling boats or trailers, which require that people pay even closer attention.

Travel usually starts on Friday with most travelers returning home on Sunday or Monday. We expect the freeways to be crowded with people taking “one last trip” to end the summer driving season.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration recently released a survey that states that *one in 12 Americans* admitted to driving drunk in the past year.

Additionally, Department of Transportation statistics show that about *one-third* of all fatal vehicle crashes involve a *drunk or impaired driver*.

The Milwaukee County Sheriff’s Office has been a *driving force* in decreasing the

number of alcohol-related crashes and deaths. I am *cautiously optimistic* that motorists driving on the Milwaukee County Interstate, are beginning to “*get it*” when it comes to impaired driving, as we have had *no* alcohol-related fatalities thus far in 2010. At this time last year we had 5 alcohol-related deaths on the Milwaukee County Interstate by the Labor Day weekend, and 5 in 2008.

We have responded to **119** alcohol-related crashes in 2010, and deputy observations have led to the arrest of **962** drunk drivers so far this year.

This weekend, the Sheriff's Office OWI Task Force will be deployed beginning Friday at 9 p.m., and the Southeast Multi-Jurisdictional drunk driving task force will begin their enforcement efforts against this dangerous driving beginning Saturday at 10 p.m., until 4 a.m. Sunday, September 5.

You can expect to see an increase in law enforcement visibility, with over fifty (50) law enforcement squads in service throughout Milwaukee County targeting people driving impaired.

I have also ordered that an additional 18 patrol units be deployed at various times throughout this Labor Day weekend.

These squads will enforce the hazardous types of driving that cause crashes which lead to fatalities and injuries. These include: inattentive driving such as texting while driving.... aggressive driving that leads to road rage incidents....driving at excessive speed, and seat belt enforcement. We will also ask for proof of insurance.

I want to remind everyone that in Milwaukee County, driving impaired comes with heavy and swift consequences.

**You will be arrested and jailed and will have risked or caused the senseless injury or death of others.**

Motorists driving responsibly... along with our enforcements efforts, will lead to a safe Labor Day driving weekend.