



# Texas Department of Public Safety

## Information for the News Media Public Information Office (512) 424-2080

December 22, 2008

### DPS wishes for safe holiday travel



DPS troopers will increase patrols during the Christmas and New Year's holidays in an effort to make holiday travel safer on Texas roads.

Of special concern, is drinking and driving during the holidays. Troopers also will focus on speeders and seat belt violators. All available troopers will be on patrol from Wednesday, December 24 through Sunday, December 28, and again on Wednesday, December 31 and Thursday, January 1.

During the Christmas and New Year's holidays last year, DPS troopers issued a total of 28,000 citations and 14,000 warnings, including 919 DWI arrests, 19,612 speeding tickets and 3,379 safety restraint violations. DPS statistics suggest tickets and drunken driving arrests by troopers double during holiday enforcement periods.

"The best present you can give to yourself and your loved ones is to make sure you arrive safely at your holiday destination—most traffic deaths are preventable," said interim DPS Director Stanley E. Clark. "We feel our efforts, in conjunction with increased enforcement from other agencies, will make the holidays just a little bit safer. DPS prefers voluntary compliance, but we write citations and arrest drunk drivers to save lives."

DPS offers the following advice as gifts to the traveling public:



Drive with courtesy; it's contagious. Remember, it's the holidays!!!



Slow down—especially in bad weather, construction areas and heavy traffic.



Don't drink and drive; get a designated driver.



Buckle up everyone in the vehicle.



Keep cell phone chatter to a minimum, and avoid texting.



Avoid drowsy driving.



Make sure your vehicle is properly maintained.

### (PIO 2008-0059)

*For a recorded sound bite on this topic, call 512-424-2606*  
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