

Drink. Drive. Go to Jail.

Labor Day 2010 *Drink. Drive. Go to Jail* Campaign

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 20, 2010

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Bedford PD Urges Texans to Avoid a DWI This Summer

[Bedford, TX] - From August 20 to September 6, law enforcement statewide will be working overtime to find and arrest drunk drivers. "Last year during the two-week crackdown, officers around the state worked nearly 18,000 combined hours of overtime specifically looking for intoxicated drivers," said Bedford Police Chief David Flory. "If we pull you over and you've been drinking, you will be arrested. The only way to be sure you'll avoid a DWI is by never getting behind the wheel after drinking alcohol," said Flory. The **Bedford Police Department** is reminding Texans that there are many options they can choose for getting home that don't include drinking and driving: calling a cab, designating a sober driver ahead of time, staying put, calling a friend or family member for a ride, and more.

Convicted first-time DWI offenders can pay a fine of up to \$2,000, lose their driver's license for up to a year, and serve 180 days in jail. Safety officials say other costs associated with a drunk driving arrest and conviction can add up to more than \$17,000 for bail, legal fees, court appearances, court-ordered classes, vehicle insurance increases, and other expenses.

Of course, the consequences of driving under the influence can be much worse. In 2009, there were 27,108 alcohol-related crashes in Texas that resulted in 955 deaths and 17,542 injuries (preliminary data).

The Bedford Police Department, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the Texas Department of Public Safety, the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission, Mothers Against Drunk Driving, and hundreds of local law enforcement agencies are participating in the annual *Drink, Drive, Go to Jail* campaign to reduce drunk driving on Texas roads.

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