

# Ohio State Highway Patrol

## Monthly Commander's Column



### **State troopers universally take the crime Of impaired driving seriously**

Time after time in public opinion surveys, motorists rank being hit by a drunk driver as one of their top fears about driving.

The vast majority of these same motorists are law-abiding people who drive to get to work, shop, go to their kid's sporting games, or any number of other events and places without thinking twice about the dangers they could face on the roads every day.

One thing people almost universally agree on, however, is they are grateful law enforcement professionals are out there protecting them, and their families, from drunk drivers.

One important way Ohio State Highway Patrol troopers work to make Ohio roads safe to travel is by aggressively searching for and removing, impaired drivers from the roadways before they can cause a tragedy to someone in your family, or someone you know.

Troopers arrested 24,250 impaired drivers last year – some of the most dangerous criminals on Ohio roads. That meant 24,250 potential traffic crash tragedies were prevented by the diligence of our officers.

I hope it is comforting for those drivers who represent the majority that obey traffic laws and make safe driving a priority, that your local state troopers are out there protecting you from the other person who may cause a tragic situation through the selfishness of driving impaired.

State troopers universally take the crime of drunk driving seriously. And that is what drunk driving is – a crime.

Drunk driving is a crime that puts innocent people in danger, and all too frequently results in tragic consequences.

State troopers, however, do more than enforce Ohio's traffic laws. We also use checkpoints and other specialized enforcement programs to deter and intercept impaired drivers. We educate drivers of all ages about the importance of making responsible decisions – including the decision not to drive impaired.

But we can't fight the battle against drunk driving on our own – We need your commitment to make our roads safe.

Each person can, and must, help by actively influencing friends and family to make the type of safe, responsible decisions that save lives. Simple things like planning ahead to designate a driver if you choose to consume alcohol, and insisting that everyone in the vehicle is buckled up before you leave, can go a long way toward ensuring tragedies do not occur.

I also want to encourage the public to continue using 1-877-7-PATROL to report dangerous drivers or stranded motorists, or 1-800-GRAB DUI to report impaired drivers.