

# NEWS RELEASE

Indiana Criminal Justice Institute



## Communications Division

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 12, 2009

### **Increased Patrols on Hoosier Roadways Signal Start of Holiday Travel Season**

*Motorists will notice greater police presence beginning Friday*

**Indianapolis, IN.** – During the 2008 Thanksgiving holiday period, 15 people lost their lives in Indiana traffic crashes. More than 66 percent of those fatalities were alcohol related. Additionally, in more than two-thirds of the fatal collisions that occurred around Thanksgiving, the person killed was not wearing a seat belt.

In an effort to prevent senseless injuries and fatalities from occurring on Indiana's roadways this Thanksgiving holiday season, Indiana Criminal Justice Institute (ICJI) Executive Director, Neil Moore today announced that the Indiana State Police and more than 250 law enforcement agencies funded by ICJI, will conduct a *Safe Family Travel* enforcement blitz.

*Safe Family Travel* is a statewide, annual enforcement effort that combines high visibility seat belt and impaired driving patrols. The effort will take place Friday, November 13 through Sunday, November 29. During this time, Indiana law enforcement officers will work thousands of overtime hours, day and night, to ensure that motorists are driving responsibly and traveling safely on the state's roadways.

"Thanksgiving is a time of celebration when countless Hoosiers will take to the roadways to mark this iconic holiday with family and friends," said Moore. "We urge motorists to celebrate the holiday responsibly by remembering to buckle up – every trip, every time. We also urge all motorists who plan to celebrate with alcohol to designate a sober driver before the festivities begin. A few seconds of planning ahead could save many lives and prevent unwanted DUI's."

-more-

#### "Safe Family Travel"

101 West Washington Street • Suite 1170 East • Indianapolis, IN. 46204 • 317.232.1295

Executive Director, T. Neil Moore

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Although nationwide more people are using seat belts than ever before, far too many people are still not buckling up and are paying the ultimate price. Studies from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) have consistently shown that wearing a seat belt increases one's chances of surviving a crash by more than 50 percent.

*"Safe Family Travel" is funded with federal dollars awarded to Indiana from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). The mobilization is reinforced by a paid, statewide advertising campaign and additional public outreach efforts. These efforts are designed to increase the regular use of motor vehicle seat belts among all passengers and reduce the number of impaired drivers on Indiana's roadways.*

*The Indiana Criminal Justice Institute (ICJI) serves as the state's planning agency for criminal justice, juvenile justice, traffic safety, and victim services. The Institute develops long-range strategies for the effective administration of Indiana's criminal and juvenile justice systems and administers federal and state funds to carry out these strategies.*

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