

# NEWS RELEASE

Indiana Criminal Justice Institute



## Communications Division

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 25, 2009

### **Increased Patrols Continue As Holiday Travel Peaks**

*Indiana law enforcement out in full force through Thanksgiving weekend*

**Indianapolis, IN.** – In an effort to prevent deaths and injuries on Indiana roadways this Thanksgiving, the Governor’s Council on Impaired & Dangerous Driving and the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute (ICJI) is urging Hoosiers to celebrate responsibly this holiday weekend.

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

“Thanksgiving is a time of togetherness when countless Hoosiers will take to the roadways to celebrate with family and friends,” said ICJI Executive Director, T. Neil Moore. “We urge motorists to celebrate the holiday responsibly by remembering to buckle up and designating a sober driver if they plan to consume alcohol. A few seconds of planning ahead could save a life.”

More than 250 law enforcement agencies throughout the state, including the Indiana State Police, are currently conducting the *Safe Family Travel* enforcement blitz. The effort, which combines high visibility seat belt and impaired driving patrols runs through Sunday, November 29.

Although more people are using seat belts than ever before nationwide, far too many people still aren’t buckling up and consequently, are paying the ultimate price.

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#### “Safe Family Travel”

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

Executive Director, Dr. T. Neil Moore

[www.in.gov/cji](http://www.in.gov/cji)

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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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