Drink. Drive. Go to Jail.

Labor Day 2010 *Drink. Drive. Go to Jail* Campaign
August 20 – September 6, 2010

Texas is participating in a nationwide drunk driving crackdown coordinated by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) that combines high-visibility law enforcement with a statewide public information and education campaign. Between August 20 and September 6, thousands of law enforcement officers will be working overtime to stop and arrest drunk drivers on Texas roads and highways. TxDOT is reminding Texans: if you're caught drinking and driving, you are going to jail.

Texas DWI Statistics
(Data compiled by TxDOT from Texas Peace Officer's Crash Reports except where noted.)

- In 2009, there were 27,108 alcohol-related crashes in Texas that resulted in 955 deaths and 17,542 injuries (preliminary data).
- In 2008, more alcohol-related crashes occurred between 2am and 3am than any other hour of the day. Also, more alcohol related crashes occurred on Saturday than any other day of the week.
- In 2008, 28.1 percent of the total traffic fatalities in Texas were caused by drivers under the influence of alcohol.
- In 2008, 25 percent of people killed in alcohol-related crashes in Texas were between the ages of 20 and 25. However, this age segment only represents 9 percent of the overall state population.
- During the 2009 two-week crackdown, officers around the state worked a combined total of more than 17,000 hours of overtime specifically looking for impaired drivers. *(2009 Crackdown, Mobilization, and Sustained Enforcement Report)*

How Texans Can Avoid a DWI
Do not get behind the wheel if you've been drinking. Designate a driver, catch a bus, call a cab or someone you trust to pick you up, or spend the night where you are.

A DWI arrest and conviction in Texas can cost $17,000 or more: fees include car towing, impoundment, bail, attorney fees, court costs, hearing and fees to regain and retain driver's license, DWI fine, probation costs, fees for extended proof of insurance, plus insurance rate hikes.

TxDOT is partnering with NHTSA, the Texas Department of Public Safety, the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission, the Texas Municipal Police Association, taxi companies, MADD, and local law enforcement organizations statewide to prevent drunk driving.

DWI LAWS: 21 OR OLDER

In Texas the legal limit for intoxication is .08 BAC (blood or breath alcohol concentration). However, drivers can be stopped and cited when impaired regardless of BAC. Drivers and passengers can be fined up to $500 for having an open alcohol container in a vehicle.

Driving While Intoxicated (DWI)

First Offense	Second Offense*	Third Offense*
• Up to a $2,000 fine • Three to 180 days in jail upon conviction • Loss of driver's license up to a year • $1,000 surcharge for three years to retain driver's license	• Up to a $4,000 fine • Five days to a year in jail upon conviction • Loss of driver's license up to two years • $1,500 surcharge for three years to retain driver's license	• Up to a $10,000 fine • Two to 10 years in prison upon conviction • 10–60 days in jail if defendant receives probation • Loss of driver's license up to two years • $2,000 surcharge for three years to retain driver's license

*After two or more DWI convictions in five years, motorists must install a special ignition switch that prevents their vehicle from being operated if they've been drinking.

DWI With a Child Passenger

Motorists can be charged with child endangerment for driving while intoxicated if they're carrying passengers younger than 15 years old. DWI with a child passenger is a felony and punishable with:

- Up to a $10,000 fine
- Up to two years in a state jail
- Loss of driver's license for up to two years

DWI LAWS: UNDER 21

It is illegal for minors (those under 21) to purchase, attempt to purchase, possess or consume alcohol. It's also against the law for minors to misrepresent their age to obtain alcohol.

Minors in Possession (MIP)

Here's what happens the first time minors are found in possession of alcohol. Any amount of beer, wine or liquor will trigger the penalties.

- Up to a $500 fine
- 30- to 180-day driver's license suspension
- Eight to 40 hours of community service
- Mandatory alcohol awareness classes

A second or third offense can lead to suspension of the minor's driver's license for 60 to 180 days. Those 17 or older can be fined as much as $2,000 or go to jail for up to 180 days for a third offense or both, plus automatic driver's license suspension.

Driving Under the Influence (DUI)

It is illegal for anyone under 21 to drive with any detectable amount of alcohol in their system. Here's what happens the first time a minor is convicted of a DUI. Any amount of beer, wine or liquor can trigger the penalties.

- Up to a $500 fine
- 60-day driver's license suspension
- 20 to 40 hours of community service
- Mandatory alcohol awareness classes

Driving While Intoxicated (DWI)

Drivers 17 and older who are stopped for drinking and driving with a blood or breath alcohol concentration (BAC) of .08 or greater can also face DWI criminal penalties listed for those 21 and older.