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NEWS

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TRAFFIC SAFETY HINTS
BY SECRETARY OF STATE JESSE WHITE

According to the Illinois Department of Transportation, 22 lives were lost on Illinois roads during the 2003 Memorial Day Weekend. Eleven of the 22 fatalities were alcohol-related. Illinois motorists are advised to be watchful this Memorial Day Weekend for drivers who may be operating their vehicles under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

Q. What signs might indicate a driver is under the influence?

- A. • turning too widely, abruptly or illegally
- swerving off and on the road or between lanes
 - responding slowly to traffic signals
 - signaling inconsistently with driving actions
 - tailgating, speeding or driving more than 10 mph under the speed limit
 - driving with both headlights off when headlight use is required

Q. What should I do if I suspect a driver is drunk?

- A. • Drive defensively and expect sudden changes in the driver's speed and course.
- Do not try to pass or stop the driver. Either call the police from a cell phone or go to the nearest gas station or rest area and call. Be prepared to give the exact location of the driver and the direction he/she was headed, as well as the vehicle's description and license plate number.

Q. At what point is a person considered drunk?

- A. In Illinois, the illegal blood alcohol concentration for drivers is .08 or greater. However, alcohol affects individuals differently based on the amount of alcohol consumed and the rate at which it is absorbed into the body. Other factors include body weight, tolerance, mood, environment and the amount of food consumed. Driving with any amount of alcohol or drugs in your system is hazardous and greatly increases your odds of being involved in a serious accident.

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