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**Jesse White Reminds Drivers to Be Safe throughout
This Holiday Season — Don't Drink & Drive**

Secretary of State Jesse White reminded people to travel safely on November 21st, known as “Blackout Wednesday,” the night before Thanksgiving, and throughout the weekend.

“As we welcome students, friends and relatives home, let’s remember to celebrate this holiday safely and responsibly,” White said. “Enjoy the festivities, but don’t drink and drive. Call a cab, use public transportation or designate a sober driver.”

- During the 2011 Thanksgiving weekend, starting at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, there were eight crash fatalities statewide, four of which were alcohol-related, which is 50% of the total motor vehicle fatalities.
- During the 2010 Thanksgiving weekend, there were 15 crash fatalities, nine of which were alcohol-related, which is 60% of the total motor vehicle fatalities.
- During the 2009 Thanksgiving weekend, there were 12 crash fatalities, five of which were alcohol-related, which is approximately 41% of the total motor vehicle fatalities.

The Secretary of State’s office will join the Illinois Department of Transportation, Illinois State Police and law enforcement agencies to conduct DUI and seatbelt patrols during the holiday season, White said. Secretary of State Police will also be enforcing the *Click It or Ticket* campaign to increase safety belt usage throughout the holiday season.

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