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Jesse White Reminds Drivers to Be Safe Over Memorial Day Weekend — Don't Drink & Drive
Secretary of State Police enhancing DUI enforcement efforts statewide over the holiday weekend

Secretary of State Jesse White is reminding people to travel safely during this Memorial Day holiday weekend and don't drink and drive.

"Memorial Day is a day in which we as a nation come together to remember and honor the brave men and women who died while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces so that we may be free," said White. "However, the Memorial Day holiday weekend also marks the unofficial beginning of summer and end of the school year, and I encourage everyone to remember to celebrate this holiday safely and responsibly. Enjoy the weekend, but don't drink and drive. Call a cab, use public transportation or designate a sober driver."

According to the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT):

- During the 2011 Memorial Day weekend, starting at 6 p.m. on Friday, there were 13 crash fatalities statewide, six of which were alcohol-related, which is 46% of the total motor vehicle fatalities.
- During the 2010 Memorial Day weekend, there were 16 crash fatalities, seven of which were alcohol-related, which is approximately 44% of the total motor vehicle fatalities.
- During the 2009 Memorial Day weekend, there were 30 crash fatalities, 18 of which were alcohol-related, which is 60% of the total motor vehicle fatalities.

The Secretary of State's office will join IDOT, Illinois State Police and law enforcement agencies to conduct DUI and seatbelt patrols during the holiday weekend. Secretary of State Police also will be enforcing the Click It or Ticket campaign to increase safety belt usage throughout the weekend.

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