



Alliance Against Intoxicated Motorists

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LABOR DAY WEEKEND JOINT EFFORT TO REMOVE IMPAIRED DRIVERS MAKE ROADS SAFER IN ILLINOIS

Law Enforcement agencies and The Alliance Against Intoxicated Motorists (AAIM) are working together in a joint effort to remove impaired drivers from our roadways over the Labor Day Weekend. Law Enforcement Agencies will be stepping up their late night plans for the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) 2011 Labor Day “Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over” impaired driving campaign. Impaired driving is a deadly crime still prevalent throughout America and especially among males age 21 to 34. According to Illinois Secretary of State, more than 45,900 DUI arrests were made in 2009. Over 750 people were injured during the Labor Day weekend last year. To crackdown on impaired driving, law enforcement in Illinois this Labor Day is placing special emphasis on impaired driving and safety belt enforcement during the late night hours.

AAIM’s Drunkbuster program pays \$100 to motorists who report an impaired motorist that leads to a DUI arrest. The program is in effect for all of Illinois over the Labor Day Weekend. Drunkbusters runs year round in McHenry, DuPage, Lake, Will and

Kane Counties. The Drunkbuster program has paid out over \$445,000, resulting in the arrests of over 4,450 impaired motorists since the program started in 1990. The program is funded by fines collected from convicted drunk drivers.

Citizens observing a car being driven erratically, swerving across lane dividers, on or off shoulders, or almost hitting other cars can call the police and report a possible drunk driver. If the report results in an arrest for drunk driving, as confirmed in writing from the arresting agency, AAIM will send the caller \$100. Drunkbusters have reported drunk drivers from, convenience stores and gas stations but the most popular method is via cell phone. Callers should identify the possible drunk drivers by describing the erratic driving behavior of the vehicle in question, its description, location, direction of travel, and if possible, the license plate number. Dispatchers will then notify squads in the areas to be on the lookout for a vehicle fitting this description. However, officers need their own probable cause to stop a vehicle.

The “Drive Sober Get Pulled Over “crackdown runs concurrently with the Drunkbuster Program. Enhanced enforcement from Labor Day Weekend generally result in multiple DUI arrests and related alcohol offenses, in addition to other offenses. No one should ever have to get that late night knock on the door from law enforcement telling you an impaired driver has killed your loved one. Impaired driving is not an accident, it is careless disregard for human life. We at AAIM want you to enjoy this Labor Day weekend and simply ask that when you celebrate, make the right choice – don’t drink and drive.