



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF STATE POLICE
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE



Leonard Boyle
Commissioner of Public Safety

Colonel Edward Lynch
Deputy Commissioner, Division of State Police

12/20/04
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE **"STATE POLICE"**
"OPERATION SANTA"

The Connecticut State Police today launched the 2004 Holiday enforcement program in an attempt to save lives and prevent injury as the Christmas/New Years holiday season approaches. **Operation S.A.N.T.A. S-top A-nother N-eedless T-ragic A-ccident** is the major holiday accident and injury prevention message from the Connecticut State Police. This combined accident reduction effort (C.A.R.E.) involves all State Police Departments across the U.S. The focus of the enforcement is on the most frequent causes of accident fatalities; drivers who drive under the influence, who speed, and fail to wear seatbelts

Enhanced DUI and seatbelt enforcement will jump into high gear for the entire holiday season. This week, and the next couple of weeks, traditionally is the time that many holiday celebrations such as house and office parties take place. Many of these parties include the consumption of alcohol. Some partygoers will neglect to remember that mixing alcohol with the operation of any motor vehicle is unwise, dangerous and illegal.

The Connecticut State Police have scheduled numerous DUI spot checks and enhanced enforcement operations on the roads and highways of Connecticut. **Public Safety Commissioner Leonard Boyle** said, "We are trying to save lives and keep all of our roads and highways safe". "Any amount of alcohol, never mixes with driving a car anywhere in our State".

No one looks forward to spending time in a jail, hospital or something worse over the holidays. Connecticut State Troopers will do everything to keep drunk drivers off the roads. **Join our effort**, if you are planning to consume alcohol at a festive event, make plans **in advance** for a sober driver to bring you home. If you spot a suspected drunk driver, **report it**, this is a true emergency. Seat belt enforcement is an important part of "OPERATION SANTA". People not wearing seatbelts that are involved in a crash will probably be injured. Seatbelts do prevent injuries, keep you secure, and can prevent you from being ejected in a crash. **Dr. Peter Jacoby** the Emergency Department Director at St. Mary's Hospital in Waterbury and **Dr. Harry Moscovitz** the Emergency Department Clinical Director at Yale New Haven Hospital speaking for all Connecticut Emergency Department physicians said, "We support **THE STATE POLICE OPERATION SANTA**, this is a prescription for survival. We see too many motor vehicle accident victims in the ER who are seriously injured. Trauma/ER physicians do their best to heal these injuries. Many injuries can be prevented with the use of seatbelt and the elimination of alcohol by drivers".

###END ### Sgt. J. Paul Vance

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