

OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF SARPY COUNTY

“Honored to Serve”



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Sarpy County Sheriff

For Immediate Release
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PRESS RELEASE

THE SARPY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE ENCOURAGES DRIVES TO DRIVE MERRY, BRIGHT, AND SOBER THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

Papillion, NE - This holiday season, the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) is partnering with Nebraska law enforcement agencies to share the message about the dangers of drunk driving. From December 18, 2020, through January 1, 2021, law enforcement will participate in the high-visibility national enforcement campaign, *Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over*. During this period, the Sarpy County Sheriff's Office will show zero tolerance for drunk driving. Increased state and national messages about the dangers of driving impaired, coupled with enforcement and increased officers on the road, aim to drastically reduce drunk driving on our nation's roadways

Statewide in Nebraska, there were 6,412 DUI arrests recorded in 2019 by NDOT-Highway Safety Office. Nebraska's Mothers Against Drunk Driving organization analyzed 1,544 DUI cases that occurred in 2019. This represents 23% of the total cases (when compared to 2018 numbers). These cases were primarily misdemeanor charges, unless the individual was charged with a DUI 3rd .15+ or higher – those are considered felony offenses in the state of Nebraska.

The Sarpy County Sheriff's Office is hosting the statewide kick-off with the Nebraska Department of Transportation Highway Safety Office and other law enforcement for the *Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over* campaign. This press conference will occur on Monday, December 14, 2020 at 10:00 AM at the Sarpy County Sheriff's Office Community Room, located at 8335 Platteview Road, Papillion, NE 68046.

Sadly, the statistics prove that we have a lot of work to do to put an end to drunk driving. According to NHTSA, 10,511 people were killed in drunk-driving crashes in 2018. On average, more than 10,000 people were killed each year from 2014 to 2018 — one person was killed in a drunk-driving crash every 50 minutes in 2018. This is why we at the Sarpy County Sheriff's Office are working with NHTSA to remind drivers that drunk driving is not only illegal, it is a matter of life and death. As you head out to the holiday festivities, remember: *Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over*.

The Sarpy County Sheriff's Office is one of the largest Sheriff's Offices in Nebraska, serving the fastest growing county in the state. Its team of dedicated law enforcement officers and civilian staff are **honored to serve** its citizens and community.

For more information about the 2020 Holiday Season *Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over* campaign, visit www.nhtsa.gov/risky-driving/drunk-driving.

If you have any questions, contact Sgt. Kyle Percifield at 402-593-1548 or email kpercifield@sarpy.com.

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