CPSO announces extra patrols to address drunk driving

Thursday, December 17, 2015

The Caddo Sheriff's Office is warning motorists that drunk driving won't be tolerated through the holiday season. "If you're over the limit and you drive, you're under arrest," said Sheriff Steve Prator.

A grant provided by the Louisiana Highway Safety Commission will provide funding for deputies to conduct extra patrols in Caddo Parish. The added patrols will take place from December 18 through January 3.

New data released today by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration shows a 1.1 percent decline in drunk driving deaths in 2014. Among the 9,967 alcohol-impaired-driving fatalities in 2014, 69 percent (6,852) were in crashes in which at least one driver in the crash had a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .15 or higher. This was nearly twice the set limit in every state. The rate of alcohol impairment among drivers involved in fatal crashes in 2014 was almost four times higher at night than during the day. The percentage of drivers involved in fatal crashes with BACs of .08 or higher was 23 percent among males and 15 percent among females. In December 2014, 788 lives were lost due to drunk driving – one death every 57 minutes.

Sheriff Prator is urging citizens to be safe. "Don't put yourself or others at risk. Plan ahead. Designate a sober driver in advance. Call a friend or call cab," he said.