EUGENE POLICE NEWS RELEASE

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DUII Saturation Patrols will search out Intoxicated Drivers during Back-to-School Weekend

This weekend, in an effort to ensure a safe back-to-school weekend for college students, EPD will partner with SPD to search-out DUII drivers. The officers will make every effort to actively seek any vehicle that is reported as a possible DUII, regardless of jurisdictional boundaries. Drivers that suspect possible DUII drivers or reckless driving are encouraged to call 911 to support this effort.

This targeted DUII enforcement is designed to increase the safety of people traveling this weekend by increasing visibility and creating awareness about impaired driving. The enforcement is largely funded through state grants to ensure that enough officers are available to identify, stop and process impaired drivers, and to dedicate DUII patrols that are staffed above and beyond the usual patrol strength.

All community members who participate in celebrations where alcohol is present are urged to drink responsibly if they do choose to consume alcohol, and to refrain from driving after drinking or consuming other substances that may affect their driving ability. Aside from the potentially tragic consequences of a collision due to a driver’s impairment from alcohol or other drugs, impaired drivers face a steep financial burden if arrested for driving under the influence and the suspension of their driver's license. Drivers are encouraged to designate a non-drinking driver, and be prepared with phone numbers for an alternate driver in case the primary plan falls through.

Minors should note that if they mix drinking with driving, the thresholds of alcohol are lower for DUII-related penalties, including the charge of a minor in possession of alcohol, and the suspension of their license if ANY alcohol is found in a breath/blood test. Additionally, while it is commonly understood that those driving vehicles while impaired are a danger to others traveling around them, impaired bicyclists and pedestrians also put themselves at risk, and impaired bicyclists may face DUII charges. Drivers can be arrested for DUII if impaired by medications or drugs, or if under .08 percent alcohol if impairment is demonstrated.

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