



## TEMPLE TERRACE POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS RELEASE

11250 North 56<sup>th</sup> Street  
Temple Terrace, Florida 33617  
813.506-6500  
813.506-6499 FAX  
www.templeterrace.com

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:**

**Michael Dunn, City of Temple Terrace PIO @ (813) 506-6406**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **YOU BETTER WATCH OUT, I'M TELLING YOU WHY: COPS ARE CRACKING DOWN ON DRUNK DRIVING** *Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over*

**TEMPLE TERRACE, FL** – (12/9/14) – The holidays are a time of parties, celebrations and other festive occasions, and many party-goers will be drinking adult beverages.

If you're celebrating with alcohol this holiday season, the Temple Terrace Police Department has a message for you: *Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over*.

Because of an increase in drunk driving-related fatalities around the holidays, law enforcement agencies across America will be out in force Dec. 12 through Jan. 1 actively searching for impaired drivers.

The facts are grim: in December 2012 there were 830 people killed in crashes involving at least one driver or motorcycle operator with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .08 or higher; 26 of those deaths occurred on Christmas day, statistics show. On average, nearly a third (31%) of all crash fatalities in America involves drunk driving, but on Christmas day of 2012, the percentage jumped to 36 percent, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

"It's time for all drivers to get the message," said Capt. Mike Pridemore, "that drunk driving isn't a victimless crime. You could kill yourself or someone else, or get a DUI and go to jail."

In every state, motorists are considered impaired if they drive with an alcohol level of .08 grams per deciliter (g/dL) or more. And it might not take as much alcohol as you'd think to get there. The safest approach is to only drive sober. If you plan on drinking at a holiday party, bar or restaurant let someone else do the driving, or take public transportation. And, if you see a drunk driver on the road, call the police right away -- you could save a life.

"If someone you know is about to drive after drinking, take their keys and help them get home safely," Pridemore said. "We've got to work together to make our roads safer during the holidays and year-round."

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