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News Release

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Public Service Announcement
Memorial Day Safety Tips

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 05/22/14 MEMORIAL DAY SAFETY TIPS

The Frederick County Sheriff's Office is offering a few driving tips to help keep citizens safe and minimize their risks of being involved in a crash while traversing the roadways this upcoming holiday weekend. Sheriff Charles A. Jenkins said, "Deputies will be on patrol throughout the county during the holiday weekend to enforce the speed limits and ensure that everyone travels safely. I would also remind everyone to use their seat belts, and refrain from texting or using their cell phones without a hands-free device." He added, "Most importantly, please don't drink and drive."

Tips

Don't drink and drive. No matter if you're attending a holiday gathering close to home or if you're on a road trip, drinking and driving is never a good idea. Play it safe and have a designated driver to drive you home or call for a cab.

Always report impaired driving immediately. The quicker law enforcement can get the impaired driver stopped and off the roadways, the less likely they will hurt themselves and others.

Buckle Up! Wearing seatbelts every time you drive is the easiest way to help keep you and your family safe in the event of an accident. If you're traveling with small children make sure they are in a proper car or booster seat for their age group and height.

Watch your speed! State and local police officers are out in full force during holiday weekends. Make sure to obey the speed limits and keep a safe distance from the cars in front of you! Remember, a speeding ticket can mean points on your driver's license and a potential increase in your auto insurance rate.

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Check your tires. Inspect your tires before you head out on your trip. Make sure to check the pressure in your tires. Many drivers fail to do this and low tire levels can potentially cost more money in gas to fuel a car. It's also a good idea to have your tires rotated by a professional mechanic before you leave on a long trip.

Make sure your battery is fully charged. If it's been a few years since you replaced your car battery, you might want to do so before you leave for a vacation. It's better to be safe than sorry when you're traveling far from home.

Turn on your lights. Something many of us fail to check before leaving for vacation are headlights, tail lights and turn signals. To ensure everything is working properly, have a family member or friend walk around the car while you test the car lights and signals from the inside.

Pack a first aid kit and roadside assistance kit. It's always a good idea to keep a first aid kit and a roadside assistance kit in your car at all times. You never know what could happen, so it is better to play it safe. While you're at it, consider packing a cooler of water and non-perishable foods, and a flash light with extra batteries.

Check the weather. If you get caught in a torrential downpour, pull off to the side of the road or to a rest area until the rain has stopped. And if you come across a flooded area, don't attempt to try to drive through it, find an alternative route. You may have to back track a bit, but it's worth it in the long run.

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