

News Release

CONTACT: Todd Crum
Public Information Representative
Behavioral Health Services
301-600-3285
TTY: Use Maryland Relay

TCrum1@FrederickCountyMD.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

DECEMBER 12, 2013

DECEMBER IS NATIONAL DRUNK AND DRUGGED DRIVING (3D) PREVENTION MONTH

FREDERICK, **MD** -- The holiday season represents a time to gather and celebrate with family and friends, to enjoy each other's company, and to feast on the treats of the season. Seasonal celebrations often translate to a greater number of impaired drivers on our roads. This increase poses a significant risk to our public safety. December is National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month (often referred to as 3D Month), which is a time to raise the public's awareness about the serious consequences of driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), there were 16 fatal crashes in Frederick County in 2012; 25% of these fatal crashes involved an alcohol-impaired driver. Over the past 5 years, Frederick County has experienced 99 fatal crashes, an average of 20 per year. Of these fatal crashes, 32 (32%) involved an alcohol-impaired driver. These statistics indicate that alcohol-impaired driving presents a serious public safety

--more--







3D Month / Page 2

issue in Frederick County.

To prevent impaired driving this holiday season, NHTSA gives these tips to plan ahead and never drink and drive:

- If you will be drinking this holiday season, do not plan on driving. Plan ahead; designate a sober driver before the drinking begins.
- If you have been drinking, do not drive. Call a taxi, phone a sober friend or family members or use public transportation.
- Be responsible. If someone you know is drinking, do not let that person get behind the wheel.

If you suspect someone is driving while impaired, callers are encouraged to dial **#77** from their cellular phones or call **911**. Your actions may well save someone's life, and inaction could cost a life.

If you are concerned about a suspected party involving underage drinking or drug use in Frederick County, contact the **Underage Party Tip Hotline at 301-600-1318**. Give the address of the party, the time and date. Callers can remain anonymous and all information is kept confidential.

Finally, citizens are encouraged to "Get Involved!" The Frederick County – Alcohol Prevention Initiative (FC-API) Coalition is always recruiting members. This is a community-based coalition comprised of community and agency members aimed at reducing the misuse of alcohol by youth and young adults in Frederick. The coalition was established in 2012 in collaboration with the Frederick County Health Department and the Asian American Center of Frederick. If you would like more information about this initiative or would like to join the coalition, call Laura LaMotte at 301-600-3390 or send an email to llamotte@frederickcountymd.gov. Also, visit the FC-API Coalition website at www.fc-api.org and join us on Facebook

--more--



3D Month / Page 3

at Frederick County Alcohol Prevention Initiative.

For more information about preventing drinking and driving, visit www.TrafficSafetyMarketing.gov. Help keep Frederick County safe for our families and friends this holiday season!

###