



Fayette County Sheriff's Office

Wayne Hannah, Sheriff

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Press Information

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Summer H.E.A.T. Crackdown on DUI and Speed Begins in Fayette County and Georgia

Law Enforcement to Launch 100-Day Campaign

Summer 2012 marks the ninth consecutive season that law enforcement is rolling out waves of enforcement patrols in Fayette County and across Georgia's other 158 counties to crack down on dangerous, aggressive and high-speed drivers. The 100 Days of Summer H.E.A.T. (Highway Enforcement of Aggressive Traffic) campaign is a multi-jurisdictional highway safety enforcement strategy designed to reduce fatal crash counts during Georgia's deadly holiday driving period from Memorial Day through Labor Day.

"Our partners in law enforcement will be launching the 100 Days of Summer H.E.A.T. campaign in all corners of the state this year," said Director Harris Blackwood of the Governor's Office of Highway Safety. "They will be looking for all kinds of unsafe motorists...from drunk drivers and aggressive speeders to distracted drivers who continue to text while behind the wheel."

The H.E.A.T. campaign, which has been in Georgia since 2004, begins on May 21st this year and coincides with the annual May kickoff of the Click It or Ticket safety belt initiative. This combination means that Fayette County's sheriff's deputies, police officers, and our state troopers will be working together to get some of Georgia's most dangerous offenders off the road.

"Just like last year, we're launching Summer H.E.A.T. campaign in conjunction with Click It or Ticket," said Director Blackwood. "At its core, H.E.A.T. is an enforcement campaign so that means if you're speeding, you'll be cited. If you fail to properly buckle your safety belt or that of your child, you will be cited. We can guarantee that if you're cited for drunk driving, you'll go straight to jail."

Safety experts regard *speeding* as a high-risk behavior behind the wheel, right along with texting and DUI. Why? Because speed kills. Across Georgia in 2010, there were 217 speed-related fatalities. Among drivers age 21 and older in all 2010 fatal crashes, those who were not speeding were twice as likely to be wearing seatbelts as those who were speeding at the time of their crash. In fact, national research shows Georgia drivers among the highest illegal speeders in the country.

"Throughout the year, speed, drunk driving and unbuckled motorists and passengers are the top three causes of fatal crashes in Georgia," said Director Blackwood. "But we're approaching the summer months and the unofficial kickoff of the season on Memorial Day. Kids are out of school and more people are on the road taking vacations so we are committed to getting dangerous drivers off the road."

This year's 100 Days of Summer H.E.A.T. campaign runs through Sept. 3rd. Click It or Ticket runs May 21st-June 3rd. For more information on either lifesaving campaign, visit www.gahighwaysafety.org.

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