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**(S.D.)- Highway Patrol On The Roads With Thanksgiving 'Operation Safe'**



By: Jeremy Anderson Posted at: 11/22/2012 06:44 AM

PIERRE, S.D. - The South Dakota Highway Patrol is out in force today for "Operation Safe," a pre-Thanksgiving campaign to encourage holiday travelers to make safe and responsible decisions on the highways.

All available troopers, including supervisors and command staff, from each of the Highway Patrol's three districts – Aberdeen, Sioux Falls and Rapid City – are on the highways today for statewide, high-visibility saturation patrols. The day before Thanksgiving is traditionally one of the busiest travel days of the year. "Our highways will carry far more traffic than usual today as travelers try to reach their holiday destinations," said Col. Craig Price, superintendent of the South Dakota Highway Patrol.

"Operation Safe is a way to remind those travelers to use common sense, take a little extra time, use seatbelts and designate sober drivers. Each of us in the Highway Patrol wants each of you to arrive safely." The goal of Operation Safe is to raise public awareness of traffic laws.

The troopers on the highways will arrest lawbreakers, but the focus of the operation is education and awareness, not arrests.