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(Chadron)-Chadron Police Offer Thanksgiving Travel Tips



By: Jeremy Anderson Posted at: 11/21/2012 06:41 AM

(Chadron PD)-Thanksgiving is a time to spend with family and friends and gather together to enjoy each other's company and it is also one of the busiest travel times of the year, and the Chadron Police Department wants to remind all travelers, whether traveling across the country or across town, one of the best ways to ensure a safe arrival is to buckle up, every trip, every time.

"During the long Thanksgiving travel weekend, more people are on the roads visiting family and friends," said chief of police Tim Lordino. According to the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), seat belts saved more than 12,500 lives nationwide during 2010 alone. Research shows the risk of fatal injury to front seat passenger car occupants is reduced 45 percent, and the risk of moderate to serious injury is reduced 50 percent, when seat belts are worn correctly.

Yet, too many people are still not getting the message. Fifty-one percent of the 22,187 passenger vehicle occupants killed in motor vehicle crashes during 2010 were **NOT** wearing seat belts at the time of their crashes. "It is such a simple step to take to protect ourselves and our loved ones, but still too many people are not buckling up," said chief of police Tim Lordino. Holiday travel tips....

Getting Ready for the Trip

- * Plan ahead to give yourself plenty of extra time to get to your destination.
- * Stay informed about weather conditions, potential traffic hazards and highway closures.
- * Check on road conditions
- * Make sure your vehicle is ready for winter driving starting with good tires, a good battery, and a full tank of gas.
- * Carry an emergency kit and chains or traction tires, especially if traveling over mountain passes.
- * Snacks and bottled water also are a good idea for long trips, especially with children.
- * Carry a map in case weather or road conditions force you to take a detour. Keep family members or friends aware of any significant changes in your planned route before you take the unplanned route.
- * Get plenty of rest before you leave on any trip.
- * Clear snow, ice or frost from windows and headlights before you leave.
- * Make sure everyone is using safety restraints and secure any cargo.
- * Always have a designated driver for any holiday activities that include alcohol.

On the Road:

- * Drive according to conditions. If it's wet, icy, snowy or foggy, slow down and increase you're following distance behind other vehicles to at least a four-second distance. Keep in mind that conditions may not be perfect to drive at the posted speed.
- * Use headlights even in daylight to help other drivers see you.
- * Don't use cruise control in wet, icy, snowy or foggy conditions.

- * Be patient with all the other traffic on the highways.
- * Watch out for pedestrians now that the days are shorter and darker, and remember they're often in dark clothing.
- * If you get tired or drowsy, stop and rest during your trip or get a rested and sober licensed driver behind the wheel.
- * There are still many construction zones on our highways, and even though work will be inactive over the holiday weekend there may be equipment, detours, and incomplete changes in the roadway. Stay alert and slow down because all work zone speed limits still apply and fines increase in these areas.
- * Don't drink and drive or get into a vehicle with a driver who has been drinking.