



## **BOOZE and BELTS MOBILIZATION**

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For immediate release:

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### **Evansville Police to join Booze & Belts traffic safety mobilization**

To keep the joyous holiday season from becoming a time of tragedy, The **Evansville Police** will mobilize for the statewide “*Booze and Belts*” traffic crash prevention effort from Dec. 7 to 15.

During the Booze and Belts mobilization, our officers will be out in force to prevent needless traffic deaths and injuries by arresting drunken drivers and enforcing the mandatory safety belt law, said **Evansville’s Police Chief Scott McElroy**.

Law enforcement officers throughout the state are stringently cracking down on motorists who irresponsibly choose to ignore safety belt and impaired driving laws. Last year in Wisconsin, there were more than 41,000 drunken driving convictions and nearly 70,000 convictions for failure to fasten safety belts. With Wisconsin’s new primary enforcement law, officers may stop and ticket drivers and passengers who are not wearing safety belts even if the officers do not observe another violation, according to **Evansville’s Police Chief Scott McElroy**.

During this mobilization and throughout the year, our goal is to save lives and prevent injuries, not to write more safety belt tickets or make more drunken driving arrests. We hope that people will voluntarily decide to buckle up and drive sober. But if they don’t, our intensified enforcement will increase the risks of getting caught, said **Evansville’s Police Chief Scott McElroy**. Wisconsin could end the year with the lowest number of traffic fatalities since the 1940s. But we must continue our traffic safety enforcement, like the Booze and Belts mobilization, until we attain our ultimate goal of zero preventable traffic deaths in Wisconsin.

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**Note to media: Please contact Evansville Police Chief Scott McElroy at 882-2299, or [s.mcelroy@ci.evansville.wi.gov](mailto:s.mcelroy@ci.evansville.wi.gov) if you would like to arrange an interview or a ride-along with an officer during the Booze & Belts mobilization.**