

KEITH NYGREN  
SHERIFF  
EUGENE E. LOWERY  
UNDERSHERIFF



2200 N. SEMINARY AVE.  
WOODSTOCK, IL 60098

NON-EMERGENCY  
815/338-2144  
E-MAIL:  
sheriff@co.mchenry.il.us

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Roadside Safety Check Planned for Weekend**

### **March 15, 2010**

Sheriff Keith Nygren announced today that the McHenry County Sheriff's Office in conjunction with the Illinois State Police will be conducting a Roadside Safety Checkpoint on Route 14 in Cary on March 20<sup>th</sup>, in the evening hours. This enforcement will focus on vehicle safety, safety belt use and impaired drivers. Additionally, the McHenry County Sheriff's Office will be conducting additional patrols around the St. Patrick's Day holiday primarily focusing on impaired drivers.

According to data from the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), the midnight to 3:00 A.M. timeframe is the deadliest time on Illinois roads. Not coincidentally, the data also shows this time of day has the highest percentage of alcohol involvement and the lowest occupant restraint use.

The McHenry County Sheriff's Office recommends designating a sober driver and not letting friends and family drive impaired as just two of several simple steps to avoid a tragic crash or an arrest for impaired driving. Other important tips include:

- Plan ahead. Designate a sober driver before going out and give that person your keys.
- If you are impaired, call a taxi or call a sober friend or family member to get you home safely.
- Promptly report impaired drivers you see on the roadways to law enforcement.
- Wear your safety belt. It is your best defense against an impaired driver.

The law enforcement crackdown is funded by federal traffic safety funds through IDOT's Division of Traffic Safety and it runs concurrently with a media campaign that will remind motorists, "You Drink & Drive, You Lose".

Sheriff Keith Nygren