



NEWS ADVISORY from

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“NO REFUSAL” IN EFFECT FOR MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

(Tarrant County, TX) — Law enforcement agencies in Tarrant County are working in partnership to crackdown on impaired drivers by instituting a “No Refusal” policy over the three-day holiday weekend. Under this program, those stopped for suspected impaired driving who refuse to take a routine breath test will instead be subject to a court-ordered blood test.

“Impaired driving is a major threat to public safety that claims thousands of innocent lives each year,” said Tarrant Criminal District Attorney Sharen Wilson. *“Texas led the nation in 2013 with 1,337 deaths caused by drunk drivers, and many of these drivers were repeat offenders. This week alone, our local news has covered three fatality cases involving intoxicated drivers.”*

“We have a zero tolerance policy toward those who choose to get behind the wheel of a potential deadly weapon by driving under the influence. This holiday weekend, whether it’s your first time to drink and drive or you’re a callous repeat offender, you will be arrested and have the evidence collected to ensure your prosecution,” Wilson concluded.

Sheriffs and police officers from departments around the county will be posted starting Friday night, with access to expedited judicial warrants and centralized blood-draw locations.

“This weekend is a time to remember those we have lost, not to add to that number by driving while intoxicated,” said Assistant District Attorney Richard Alpert, a state expert on DWI/DUI prosecution. *“Be responsible this holiday weekend, or be prepared to be held accountable for your actions.”*

The “No Refusal” policy will be in effect until 5:30am on Tuesday, May 26th. For more information on the “No Refusal” program, please visit <http://www.nhtsa.gov/impaired>.

“No Refusal” Weekend
9:30pm, Friday, May 22 — 5:30am, Tuesday, May 26
Tarrant County-Wide

END

