

Beginning Dec. 3, and continuing through Jan. 1, 2011, the Nebraska State Patrol will participate in a national effort designed to raise awareness of the dangers of drinking.

The “You Drink & Drive You Lose” campaign is designed to take impaired motorists off our roadways and to remind drivers to never get behind the wheel after drinking.

The Nebraska State Patrol will conduct special enforcement efforts to include high visibility patrols, DWI checkpoints and other efforts focusing on time periods in which alcohol related activities are considered to be the highest.

“It only takes a split second for your life or the life of someone you love to change,” said Colonel Bryan Tuma, superintendent of the Nebraska State Patrol.

“The Nebraska State Patrol urges everyone to celebrate the holidays in a safe, responsible manner. Never drink and drive and if you choose to imbibe, always have a designated driver,” he said.

The “You Drink & Drive You Lose” campaign will encompass both the Christmas and New Year’s holidays. Troopers will put in more than 470 overtime hours during the special enforcement with Communication Specialists adding 90 hours of overtime to their work schedules. The extra hours are paid for thanks in part to a \$29,000 grant from the Nebraska Office of Highway Safety (NOHS).

In addition to extra officers on duty, motorist assist volunteers in specially marked vans will be available to help stranded motorists along Interstate 80 from Kearney to Omaha.

Travelers in need of emergency roadside assistance can call the Nebraska State Patrol Highway Helpline when safe to do so by dialing *55 from any cellular phone or 1-800-525-5555 from any landline.

Motorists are encouraged to utilize the state's automated road and weather condition report for the latest travel conditions.

The information can be accessed by dialing 511 from any landline or cellular phone or via the internet at www.511nebraska.org

For more information on specific enforcement activities during the Holiday time period, contact your nearest Nebraska State Patrol Troop Area Headquarters.