



NEWS RELEASE

MICHIGAN STATE POLICE

State Police Add Extra Patrols for Thanksgiving Holiday

Operation C.A.R.E. Traffic Safety Effort Begins Today

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

November 22, 2017

LANSING, MICH. As motorists prepare to hit the highways for the Thanksgiving holiday, the Michigan State Police (MSP) is preparing for the annual Operation C.A.R.E. (Crash Awareness and Reduction Efforts) traffic safety initiative Nov. 22-26, 2017.

"We urge you to make safety a priority this Thanksgiving weekend and always," said Col. Kriste Kibbey Etue, director of the MSP. "Buckling a seatbelt takes just seconds and can save your life. Texts, phone calls and other distractions can wait. Designating a sober driver is simple and benefits you and everyone else on the road."

Thanksgiving is the second deadliest holiday in Michigan for traffic crashes. In 2016, there were 10 fatalities, including five pedestrians, during the holiday period. In 2015, there were 11 deaths, five of which were pedestrians, during the same period.

Beginning today, troopers across the state will conduct high-visibility enforcement focusing on impaired driving, seat belt use, careless driving and speeding.

Motorists are also encouraged to take extra precautions when driving in snowy and icy conditions and to place an emergency preparedness kit in their vehicles. To learn more about creating a kit, go to www.michigan.gov/miready.

Operation C.A.R.E. is a nationwide initiative aimed at reducing traffic crashes and fatalities on highways across the country. It began in 1977 as a collaborative effort between the MSP and the Indiana State Police. Today Operation C.A.R.E. is one of the nation's longest running traffic safety initiatives and includes state and highway patrol agencies from all 50 states, as well as some American territories and Canadian provinces. Beginning this year, Operation C.A.R.E. includes participation from police agencies affiliated with the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) as well.

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