

NEWS RELEASE

WHATCOM COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

06/12/2007

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Zero Tolerance Patrols

This summer the Whatcom County Sheriff's Office will begin "Zero Tolerance Patrols" throughout the county in an effort to reduce alcohol-related traffic crashes. Deputies will work in teams conducting DUI enforcement, liquor establishment compliance checks and responding to underage drinking parties.

Last summer's "13 is Your Unlucky Number" DUI enforcement program contributed to a 50% reduction in alcohol related fatalities on Whatcom County roads. This year's "Zero Tolerance Patrols" builds on the success of that program. Recognizing that excessive alcohol consumption affects more than just driving, the "Zero Tolerance Patrols" have expanded to include underage drinking and alcohol violations by restaurants and bars. All drivers arrested for DUI will be booked into jail.

In the effort to eliminate impaired driving crashes, The Whatcom County Sheriff's has committed to ongoing enforcement of DUI and other drug and alcohol violations. The department now has two deputies trained as DRE's (drug recognition experts) to assist in identifying impaired drivers. "Zero Tolerance Patrols" will start this weekend and continue throughout the summer. Deputies will have a zero tolerance enforcement plan for underage drinking, alcohol overservice and DUI.

Questions about this project should be directed to Sgt Gatterman or Coordinator Doug Dahl at 360-398-2812.

The Whatcom County Sheriff's Office is located at 311 Grand Avenue in Bellingham, Washington. Office hours are week days from 8:30 Am to 4:30 PM - After hours calls should be directed to the What-Comm Dispatch Center in Bellingham at 676-6912, or **911 for Emergency Responses**.