

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Aug. 13, 2015

News contact: Chris Bortz (785) 296-3618; cbortz@ksdot.org;
Ann Williamson (785) 296-3585; annw@ksdot.org

Event encourages drivers to choose not to drink and drive

Chad Kitzman's Labor Day weekend in 2005 was like most until he got in his car. When he woke up three and half months later, his life had changed forever. That night, Kitzman chose to get behind the wheel after drinking all evening with his friends. After 15 surgeries, Kitzman is still dependent on others because of the choice he made 10 years ago and still affects him today.

Kitzman emphasized his story is about choices as he spoke at the "You drink. You drive. You lose." press conference today at the Kansas Highway Patrol headquarters in Topeka. Beginning Wednesday, Aug. 19, through Monday, Sept. 7, drivers can expect an increased law enforcement presence looking for impaired drivers.

Lt. Col. Randy Moon of the Kansas Highway Patrol spoke about Kansas' law enforcement goals during this special traffic enforcement period.

"As law enforcement we know as traffic increases, so does impaired driving, especially during major holidays," Moon said. "That's why we participate in programs like this, because of our commitment to help keep our roads the safest they can be."

Kansas Transportation Secretary Mike King highlighted the Strategic Highway Safety Plan which includes goals to reduce fatal and serious injury crashes by more than half by the year 2029.

“One of the key components of the plan is impaired driving awareness and education,” Secretary King said. “I hope you’ve heard the phrase, ‘You drink. You drive. You lose.’ because it concisely describes the progression that happens way too often.”

Kitzman asked drivers to make the right choice not to drink and drive and designate a sober driver before drinking.

“Even call your mom or dad,” Kitzman said. “They might be mad but they’d rather get a call from you asking for a sober ride home than a call that you’ve been taken to a hospital. Or worse, to a morgue.”

###

The Strategic Highway Safety Plan can be found here: <http://bit.ly/1h0QxFl>

This information can be made available in alternative accessible formats upon request.
For information about obtaining an alternative format, contact the KDOT Office of Public Affairs,
700 SW Harrison St., 2nd Fl West, Topeka, KS 66603-3754 or phone 785-296-3585 (Voice)/Hearing Impaired – 711.

Click below to connect to KDOT’s Social Networks:



