



Constable Robert 'Mike' Blount

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Constable Pct. 4 cracking down on Southeast Side drunken drivers

Drunk driving. Over the limit. Under arrest. That's the message Bexar County Constable Precinct 4 deputies will be sending to drunken drivers from Aug. 20 through Sept. 6 as they join more than 10,000 state and local law enforcement agencies in the 2010 National Impaired Driving Crackdown for Labor Day weekend.

During this aggressive enforcement period, officers will turn their sights on high-visibility enforcement and draw attention to the dangers of impaired driving, particularly during the holiday.

This is the second year Precinct 4 Constable Robert "Mike" Blount has joined the crackdown. In 2007 the constable's office started with a new traffic officer. In that year this officer wrote more than 2,000 citations for speeding, speeding in a school zone, not wearing seat belts, no insurance, etc. Six more officers have since been added to the Pct. 4 Constable's traffic unit. These officers combined have written numerous citations and are now focusing their attention on drunk drivers.

"During the Labor Day weekend it could be dangerous for drivers at anytime of the day," said Sgt. Fernando Martinez, supervisor of the Constable Pct. 4 traffic unit.

Young males and nighttime drivers face even higher risk. Impaired driving is most common among 21- to 34-year-old males, and 51 percent of drivers ages 21 to 34 killed in motor vehicle crashes in 2007 were legally drunk. At night fatal crashes involving alcohol are four times higher.

In 2008, nearly 12,000 people died in crashes in which a driver or motorcycle rider was at or above the legal limit, according to the most recent statistics from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Young people ages 21 to 24 had the highest percentage of alcohol impaired drivers in fatal crashes.

“Even if a person is able to walk away from an alcohol-related crash, the costs of drunk driving are enough to ruin a person’s life,” Sgt. Martinez said.

The costs of drunk driving can include jail time, fines, use of an ignition lock, loss of driver’s license, plus higher insurance rates, and possible termination from employment. So it’s important for all residents of Texas to have a safe and fun Labor Day weekend by remembering to always have a designated driver, buckle up, and be responsible at all times.