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MEDIA RELEASE

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***Thanksgiving is Just Around the Corner...And So Are We
Increased seat belt, impaired driving patrols coming to Newburgh***

Newburgh, IN. - With the holidays fast approaching, more motorists will be hitting the road. As the number of vehicles increase, so does the potential for traffic collisions on Indiana roadways.

To ensure everyone arrives at their destination safely, Newburgh Police Department will join hundreds of state and local law enforcement agencies to participate in Indiana's *Safe Family Travel* enforcement effort. The effort includes high-visibility seat belt and impaired driving patrols that will take place November 12 through November 28, including the Thanksgiving holiday period.

According to the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute (ICJI), there were nearly 2,000 collisions in Indiana during the 2009 Thanksgiving holiday period (6:00 p.m. November 25 through 6:00 a.m. November 30). Of those incidents, 127 were alcohol-related.

"For many, the holidays are the happiest time of year, but can quickly become tragic when a loved one is involved in a collision," said Chief Brett E. Sprinkle. "We ask that all Newburgh motorists put safety first this November by always wearing their seat belt and designating a sober driver if their activities or Thanksgiving celebration includes the use of alcohol."

"Safe Family Travel" is a statewide enforcement effort that is funded with federal dollars awarded to Indiana from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). The effort encompasses seat belt and impaired driving initiatives and is further supported by a paid, statewide advertising campaign.