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FOR THE C.A.S.E. PROGRAM

FRAUD ALERT!

COLORADO STATE PATROL OFFERS TIPS ON REPORTING DUIs



As we head into summer, the DA's Office thought it would be a good time to review how to report a drunk driver. Thanks to Capt. Paul Matzke of the Colorado State Patrol for providing the information used in this month's Fraud Alert!

How many times have you noticed a driver that just doesn't seem to be driving "normally"? You notice that they are driving over the center yellow line, that they are having a hard time staying within their lane, or are not able to maintain a steady speed. Suddenly, the realization hits: you are watching an

impaired driver trying to pilot a three-thousand-pound motor vehicle through traffic while endangering everyone that has the misfortune to be on the same roadway.

According to statistics compiled by the Colorado State Patrol on crashes covered by CSP from 2004 to 2008, the number of fatal driving under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs (DUI/D) caused crashes has remained relatively stable, while other types of crashes have decreased significantly. The bottom line is that DUI/D drivers are still one of the most dangerous threats to the motoring public.

These twelve clues are just a sample of bad driving you may observe of an impaired driver:

- Appearing to be drunk (e.g. eye fixation, face close to windshield, drinking in the vehicle)
- Turning with a wide radius
- Almost striking an object or car
- Weaving, swerving, or drifting
- Driving significantly under the speed limit for no obvious reason
- Braking erratically or stopping without cause
- Accelerating rapidly
- Tailgating
- Straddling the center of the lane or driving with the left tires on the center line
- Responding slowly to traffic signals
- Turning abruptly or illegally
- Driving at night with headlights off

The question by many people is, "what action should I take if I observe these types of driving behaviors?" Your first concern is for your safety. Do not attempt to follow or pursue the vehicle. The Colorado State Patrol encourages you to call 'Star DUI' (*384) or 'Star CSP' (*277) from a cellular phone. This call will ring directly into your local or regional CSP Communications Center. Give the dispatcher the exact location (road and direction), a brief description of the vehicle, and the manner in which the vehicle is being driven. Your call is free and may save a life – or many lives!