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**NEWS
RELEASE**

03/10/ 2020
El Paso, Texas

Increased DWI Patrols to Save Lives During Spring Break

Date: March 9 – March 23

Spring Break can be a dangerous time for alcohol-related crashes, deaths and injuries on Texas roadways. During last year's Spring Break* in Texas, there were 417 crashes involving young drivers who were driving under the influence of alcohol. Those crashes killed 26 people and seriously injured another 52.

In response, the El Paso Police Department (EPPD) and law enforcement officers across Texas will increase DWI patrols to identify and stop impaired drivers as part of the Texas Department of Transportation's "Plan While You Can" campaign. The campaign aims to decrease crashes and save lives by urging drivers to plan a sober ride prior to driving to their spring break celebrations. The increased enforcement begins 03/09/2020 and runs through 03/23/2020.

"We urge young drivers to make responsible choices during the Spring Break holiday," said EPPD Sgt. David Herandez. "Before heading out, plan ahead for a sober ride. It's a decision that can save a life."

While drivers under the influence of alcohol risk killing or seriously injuring themselves or others, they also face up to \$17,000 in fines and fees, jail time and loss of their driver's license. EPPD and TxDOT strongly encourage everyone to plan for a sober ride before the celebrations begin. Visit SoberRides.org to find alternatives to drinking alcohol and driving, such as:

- Designate a sober driver.
- Calling a cab or ride-share service.
- Use mass transit.
- Asking a sober friend or family member for a ride.
- Spend the night.





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“Plan While You Can” is a key component of #EndTheStreakTX, a broader social media and word-of-mouth effort that encourages drivers to make safer choices while behind the wheel, like wearing a seat belt, driving the speed limit and never driving after drinking or using other drugs. Nov. 7, 2000 was the last deathless day on Texas roadways. #EndTheStreakTX asks all Texans to commit to driving safely to help end the streak of daily deaths on Texas roadways.

For more information, contact Sgt. David Hernandez at 212-4167 or 2138@elpasotexas.gov

*2019 Spring Break is defined as Friday, March 8 (5 p.m.) to Sunday, March 17 (11:59 p.m.). The information contained in this report represents reportable data collected from the Texas Peace Officer's Crash Report (CR-3). This information was received and processed by the department as of Jan. 30, 2020.



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