



For Immediate Release

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2018 Hoopfest/HIVE Emphasis Patrols

Spokane – Washington State Patrol (WSP) troopers from around the state will be in Spokane starting tomorrow to ensure safe travel for motorists headed to enjoy one of the largest 3 on 3 basketball tournaments in the country. Troopers will be focusing on dangerous speed, impaired driving and distracted driving as tens of thousands of players, fans and volunteers arrive in the region to participate in Hoopfest 2018.

WSP will be partnering with the Washington State Traffic Safety Commission to provide extra troopers who will work in and around the Spokane area from Friday thru Sunday. Troopers will be conducting aerial speed enforcement and extra DUI patrols to remove impaired drivers from our roadways. “Our goal is to have a safe and enjoyable Hoopfest weekend while ensuring that motorists drive safely and are not impaired” said Captain Jeff Otis, Spokane District 4 Commander.

WSP motorcycle troopers, K9 handlers and aircraft will be working on Interstate 90 from Seattle to Spokane as a part of HIVE (High Visibility Emphasis) patrolling through the weekend. Motorists traveling across the state will see an increased presence by troopers and are encouraged to allow plenty of extra travel time. HIVE emphasis patrols are intended to prevent serious injury and fatal collisions that are caused by dangerous speed and impaired drivers.

- **Drive SOBER!!** We continue to see a large number of serious injury and fatality collisions on Washington State roadways caused by impaired drivers. Please be responsible.
- **Slow Down!! Don't Tailgate!!** Speeding accounts for 30% of fatal collisions on our roadways, while following too closely significantly increases the risk of causing a rear-end collision.
- **Buckle Up!!** People who wear their seatbelt are 70% more likely to walk away uninjured from a major collision.
- **Pay Attention!!** Distracted-driver collisions and fatalities are becoming a reality on our roadways. Reverse the trend!! Hang up and drive; the text can wait!!

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