

Increased Pedestrian Safety Initiatives Throughout November & December

Dover – The Delaware Office of Highway Safety (OHS) is pleased to announce an increase in pedestrian safety initiatives that began on November 3rd. These initiatives include outreach to the pedestrian population, enforcement of pedestrian safety laws, placement of paid media and a variety of public relations efforts.

Outreach to the pedestrian population began on November 3rd, with Delaware State Police Troop 2 conducting a special project that involved high visibility education and enforcement along US Route 13 from the Route 13/40 split to I-295. This project was part of a pilot program initiated by the International Association of Police Chiefs (IACP) and funded by OHS. DSP will conduct two weeks of outreach and follow with one week of enforcement patrols, citing those breaking pedestrian safety laws. This project will conclude on November 21st.

In addition, OHS is funding outreach and education patrols, which began November 5th. Participating agencies include Dover Police, Elsmere Police, Laurel Police, Milford Police, Newark Police, Seaford Police, Smyrna Police, Wilmington Police, and Delaware State Police Troops 2, 3 and 6. Outreach patrols will run through December 12th and will be followed with one week of enforcement patrols that conclude on December 19th. Officers will provide pedestrians with literature that includes safe walking tips and a small flashlight to increase pedestrians' visibility in low-light or dark conditions.

OHS reminds both pedestrians and the motoring public to be extra vigilant as the holiday season approaches. Historically,

it's been the most dangerous time of the year to be a pedestrian. If you are walking cross only in crosswalks or at intersections with traffic signals; if walking at night, carry a flashlight or wear reflective clothing; use sidewalks whenever possible; be patient – wait for cars to stop before stepping into the roadway; and finally, do not walk under the influence of drugs or alcohol. When driving, always anticipate pedestrians. Obey the posted speeds, be vigilant, and never drive under the influence of drugs or alcohol.