



**For immediate release**

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## **SSPD Encourages Sober Driving on New Year's Eve**

*December 22, 2014* (Siloam Springs, Ark.) 2014 will mark the first year of a DWI Task Force for the Siloam Springs Police Department. Additional officers will be on duty Wednesday, December 31<sup>st</sup>, New Year's Eve, to ensure the safety of Siloam Springs motorists. The idea for the task force was created by Lieutenant Monty Balk, a veteran of the department.

In 2012, there were 227 drunk driving deaths in Arkansas. "We want to reduce the number of impaired drivers on the road this holiday season, and having more officers on the streets will contribute to that," said Balk. "If you get stopped for a DWI (and fail the field sobriety test), you will be arrested and go to jail. There is no grey area when it comes to DWI", continued Balk.

Revelers should make arrangements ahead of time so they can safely enjoy New Year's Eve celebrations. Utilize a designated driver or stay overnight where you plan to drink alcohol.

Not only can drunk driving hurt you and others, but the financial damages from a DWI can easily go into the thousands of dollars. Fines, court costs, attorney fees, additional vehicle equipment and the loss of one's license all add up.

Chief Jim Wilmeth and the members of the Siloam Springs Police Department encourages everyone to make 2015 a safe year. Celebrate safe and sober. Don't drink and drive.

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