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Jamie Hammond, Chief of Police

**Van Buren Police Department To
Participate in NHTSA Regional Speed Enforcement Campaign
“Obey the Sign or Pay the Fine”**

(July 21-23) Motorists enjoying summer roadtrips are advised to maintain the speed limit as they travel this weekend. Between July 21-23, the Van Buren Police Department will join participating law enforcement from Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska and Oklahoma in a Regional Speed Enforcement Campaign. Officers will be on the lookout for those who are traveling above the speed limit on all roadways.

Law enforcement officers across the state will patrol approximately 500 miles of roadway. By concentrating law enforcement on high traffic corridors, organizers hope to put motorists on guard and encourage safe driving.

Local Impact

In Arkansas during 2015, there were 531 total traffic fatalities with 90 of them (17%) speeding related.

“Speeding is a serious problem on Arkansas roadways and has contributed to multiple traffic crashes, especially those that resulted in deaths. Too many of our fellow citizens are impacted by drivers who drive too fast for the road conditions or exceed the speed limit,” said Corporal Jonathan Wear “In order to get drivers to slow down and reduce the number of crashes and fatalities, we plan to intensify enforcement of posted speed limits in Van Buren. We’ll stop and ticket anyone caught speeding,” Corporal. Wear said.

National Impact

Nationwide, 27% of crash fatalities in 2015 were related to a driver exceeding the speed limit or driving too fast for conditions. A great majority – 86 percent – of all speeding-related traffic fatalities occurred on local roads -- where the posted speed limits were 55 miles per hour or under. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), a crash on a road with a speed limit of 65 mph or greater is more than twice as likely to result in a fatality than a crash on a road with a speed limit of 45 or 50 mph and nearly five times as likely as a

crash on a road with a speed limit of 40 mph or below. About 14 percent of the country’s speeding-related fatalities occur on interstate highways each year. NHTSA considers a crash speeding-related if the driver was charged with exceeding the posted speed limit or if the driver was driving too fast for conditions at the time.

“Speeding translates to death on our roadways. It greatly reduces a driver’s ability to steer safely around another vehicle, a hazardous object, or an unexpected curve. Speeding drivers put themselves, their passengers and other drivers at tremendous risk. All drivers need to be on alert - the posted speed limit is the law. When it comes to speeding, no more warnings and no more excuses - *Obey the Sign or Pay the Fine*,” said Susan DeCourcy, Regional Administrator National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) Region 7.

“Our goal is to save lives and we’re putting all drivers on alert - the posted speed limit IS THE LAW. No more warnings and no more excuses. When it comes to speeding: *Obey the Sign or Pay the Fine*,” said Sergeant Jack Robinson.

PROGRESS IS



OUR PROJECT