

May 22, 2009
Memorial Day Safety Tips



As we honor our actively serving and veteran Military personnel during this Memorial Day weekend, the Shelby Police Department would like to remind everyone to drive safely and always have a designated driver when attending cook-outs and gathering that involve the consumption of alcohol.

Memorial Day is often considered the start of the summer season. Many families will be traveling on our highways and roads this weekend. Please be mindful when heading out and allow extra time to get to your destination. As part of the NC Governor's Highway Safety program "Click-it or Ticket" initiative, officers from the Shelby Police Department will increase their patrols on our local roads to help ensure the safety of motorists. The current "Click-it or Ticket" initiative runs state-wide through Sunday, May 31.

Please observe the following safety tips while traveling:

- Obey speed limits. Excessive speed reduces your ability to avoid a crash, extends your vehicle's stopping distance and increases the severity of a crash when it occurs.
- Slow down in roadway construction zones.
- Don't tailgate. Follow other vehicles at a safe distance. If you find yourself being tailgated, don't hit the brakes. Slow down gradually and let the other vehicle pass you.
- Avoid aggressive driving behaviors such as passing on the shoulder of the road, changing lanes without signaling, violating traffic signals and weaving in and out of traffic.
- Expect the unexpected. Watch traffic around you and be prepared to react. Scan the road ahead for potential hazards.
- Watch for road debris such as tire treads, garbage, lumber, and gravel.
- Avoid or minimize in-car distractions such as cell phone use, changing tapes or CDs, eating or other activities that can remove your attention from the road.
- Get enough sleep. Sleep deprivation and fatigue can cause lapses in attention, slowed awareness and impaired judgment.
- Take frequent breaks to keep alert during long distance trips.
- Be extra cautious around large trucks. They have large "blind spots" and much longer stopping distances than passenger cars.