

Drunk driving campaign kicks off

(KNZA)--Local area law enforcement agencies are taking part in a special enforcement campaign focused on removing impaired drivers from Kansas roadways.

The “You Drink. You Drive. You Lose” campaign, kicked off Thursday, August 15.

Among the local law enforcement agencies taking part in the effort are police departments in Atchison, Horton, and Hiawatha, as well as the Atchison and Brown County Sheriff’s offices.

According to a news release from the Kansas Department of Transportation, a no refusal weekend on Friday and Saturday, August 16-17, is also part of the initiative, meaning suspected impaired drivers who refuse breath testing may be subject to blood testing.

The overall effort runs through Labor Day weekend, a time that the news release says brings increased traffic and a higher-than-normal number of deaths related to impaired drivers on the road.

According to KDOT, alcohol and other drugs are implicated in 40 percent of the crash deaths on Kansas roads.

Law enforcement officials say if you're going to drink alcohol away from home, do it responsibly by lining up a designated driver before you leave.