

NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 2010



For more information:
Jim Shuler, GOHS Public Affairs
404-656-6996 or 888-420-0767
ishuler@gohs.ga.gov

(Agency Name) Police/Sheriff's Dept/Office
AWARDED \$() H.E.A.T. GRANT for LOCAL DUI ENFORCEMENT

(ATLANTA-GA) The State of Georgia announced today that the (Your Agency) is one of only twenty-one Georgia law enforcement agencies to receive a major public safety partnership H.E.A.T. grant from the Georgia Governor's Office of Highway Safety (GOHS) in Atlanta. H.E.A.T. stands for *Highway Enforcement of Aggressive Traffic*. The statewide H.E.A.T. Project goal is to combat deaths and injuries from impaired driving crashes and excessive speeding by increasing the use of safety belts while educating the public about traffic safety and the dangers of DUI.

The Governor's Office of Highway Safety coordinates sixteen Regional Traffic Enforcement Networks across the state to help enforce Georgia's year-round speed, impaired driving, and safety belt campaigns. The (Your Agency) H.E.A.T. Unit will use the GOHS grant totaling \$(Your Amount) to develop and implement strategies to reduce local highway crashes, injuries, and fatalities.

GOHS Director Bob Dallas said, "Agencies like (Your Agency) that have received this H.E.A.T. grant are committed members of the GOHS Traffic Enforcement Network, dedicated to protecting our citizens from drunk drivers. And that's crucial because impaired driving-related crashes killed 331 people here in 2009, accounting for 26-percent of all fatal crashes in Georgia. Impaired driving is no accident and DUI is no victimless crime."

The 2011 GOHS H.E.A.T. grants total \$3.2-million, funding specialized traffic enforcement units in nineteen strategic high-risk counties across the state. This year H.E.A.T. grants will go to twelve police departments, eight sheriff's offices and the Georgia Department of Public Safety. "The H.E.A.T. Project aims to increase the impaired driver apprehension rate. H.E.A.T. Units like ours help accomplish that goal through the systematic delivery of effective DUI and aggressive driving countermeasures and by providing a higher traffic enforcement profile in the community," said (Your Agency Sheriff/Police Chief).

The H.E.A.T. initiative was designed to assist Georgia jurisdictions with the highest rates of traffic crashes, injuries and deaths with grants awarded throughout the state based on impaired driving and speeding data. The 2011 GOHS H.E.A.T. grants were awarded to city police departments in Atlanta, Duluth, Dublin, Marietta, Sandy Springs, Valdosta, and Winder.. And to county police departments in Clayton, Dekalb, Dougherty, Glynn, and Henry Counties.

H.E.A.T. grants were also awarded to Sheriff's Offices in Barrow, Bibb, Carroll, Coweta, Douglas, Forsyth, Paulding, and Walton counties and the Department of Public Safety – Georgia State Patrol Nighthawks. Some H.E.A.T. Units are large enough to be deployed as a single, self-contained enforcement team to conduct sobriety checkpoints and concentrated patrols targeting impaired drivers and speeders.

Last year H.E.A.T. Units saved thousands of motorists from harm on Georgia highways when they arrested more than seven-thousand drunk drivers. H.E.A.T. officers also saved the lives of thousands more Georgians by writing over 14-thousand seatbelt and child safety seat tickets.

Governor's Office of Highway Safety Public Information Unit
Public Affairs Director, Jim Shuler – 404-656-6996 – jshuler@gohs.ga.gov
34 Peachtree Street—Suite 800—One Park Tower—Atlanta, Georgia 30303
Visit us on the web at www.georgiahighwaysafety.org

Sonny Perdue, Governor

Robert F. Dallas, Director



"This combined enforcement effort by police, sheriffs, and State Troopers is the kind of high visibility protection the public deserves on our highways," said Director Dallas. GOHS is working overtime with more than 47,000 law enforcement officers covering all 159 counties in Georgia and using initiatives like the **H.E.A.T.** program to improve driver awareness and save lives.

In 2009, Georgia had 1,295 fatalities related to motor vehicle crashes. Nearly a quarter of Georgia's crash deaths involve motorists who drive at unsafe or illegal speeds. And across the country every thirty minutes impaired drivers kill another victim.

As law enforcement partners in the Operation Zero Tolerance DUI initiatives and the Click It Or Ticket seatbelt campaign mobilizations the **(Your Agency) H.E.A.T.** Team will coordinate with GOHS during year-round waves of high visibility concentrated patrols, multi-jurisdictional road checks, and sobriety checkpoints.

Many **H.E.A.T.** Units are also deployed as part of a joint highway safety response team called **Rolling THUNDER**, deployed to help reduce high numbers of traffic deaths in other high-risk Georgia communities.

"Georgia's **H.E.A.T.** Units and Operation Rolling THUNDER consistently save lives on our highways. We know from experience that **H.E.A.T.** Teams like **(Your Agency)** are an effective way to maximize our deterrent efforts with impaired drivers," said Director Dallas.

For more information about the GOHS **H.E.A.T.** initiative contact Lt. Scarlett Woods, **H.E.A.T.** Coordinator, at (404) 656-6996 or swoods@gohs.ga.gov . To learn about other GOHS lifesaving highway safety campaigns, visit us on the web at www.gahighwaysafety.org .

(END RELEASE)

Governor's Office of Highway Safety Public Information Unit
Public Affairs Director, Jim Shuler – 404-656-6996 – jshuler@gohs.ga.gov
34 Peachtree Street—Suite 800—One Park Tower—Atlanta, Georgia 30303
Visit us on the web at www.georgiahighwaysafety.org

Sonny Perdue, Governor

Robert F. Dallas, Director