

Date: 1/29/2008

The Ashland Police Department, with the assistance of the Hanover County Sheriff's Office, will conduct a sobriety checkpoint in the Ashland area this upcoming weekend (February 1-3).

The checkpoint will be a joint effort between law enforcement agencies to increase motorists' safety on our streets. The exact time and location of the checkpoint is not being released. Officers will stop all vehicles passing through the checkpoint. Drivers will be advised of the point of the checkpoint and will be requested to present their driver's license. Any driver suspected of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs, will be directed to a safe area off of the roadway for further observation and possible testing for intoxication.

Statistics provided by **Mothers Against Drunk Drivers** show that the weekend of the superbowl is one of the most dangerous weekends for motorists on our nation's highways.
(www.madd.org)

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), during the 2005 Super Bowl, 46 passenger vehicle occupants were killed in traffic crashes involving a driver or a motorcycle operator with a blood alcohol concentration of .08 or higher.

The maximum penalty in Virginia for the first conviction of driving under the influence is 12 months in jail, a \$2,500 fine and a 12-month suspension of driving privileges. In addition, there is a civil penalty of \$750 every year for the next three years.

Ashland Police Department
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