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**NEWS RELEASE**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**Walk Smart! Pedestrian Safety Information Available to Public at  
Southern DE Beaches**

*Dover* – Last year, two pedestrians were killed and another 27 injured in Sussex County traffic crashes. To provide pedestrians with tips they need to stay safe from harm, the Sussex County Community Traffic Safety Program (CTSP) in partnership with the Office of Highway Safety, the Department of Transportation and the Bethany Beach and Fenwick Island Police Departments, is setting up Pedestrian Safety Information Stations in the southern beach towns.

The Sussex CTSP Coordinator, safety specialists from DelDOT, and officers will provide safe walking tips and reflective materials for pedestrians. The first station will be set up on Bunting Ave. in Fenwick Island from 7:30 – 10 a.m. on Wednesday August 19<sup>th</sup>, and the next will be downtown by the boardwalk in Bethany Beach from 9 – 10 a.m. on Thursday August 20<sup>th</sup>.

The events are also a component of the Office of Highway Safety's Walk Smart Pedestrian Safety campaign. The campaign, which runs through the end of August, includes enforcement and awareness efforts. The primary factors often cited in Delaware's fatal pedestrian crashes are drugs and/or alcohol impairment on the part of the pedestrian, persons crossing the roadway outside of designated crosswalks or intersections, those who walk in the roadway, or individuals who walk at night without a flashlight or reflective material.

Everyone is a pedestrian at some point and time and the public is being asked to review and follow these safety tips:

- Walking or trying to cross a road if you have alcohol and/or other drugs in your system puts you at significant risk for being killed in a crash. Plus, impaired walking, like impaired driving is illegal.

- Be Visible - It's the law that you wear reflective clothing or carry a flashlight when walking at night but people don't often think about this.
- Always cross at marked intersections or crosswalks when possible.
- Don't walk in the roadway - If no sidewalk is available, walk facing traffic and walk as far from the edge of the roadway as possible.
- If your vehicle breaks down on an interstate or busy roadway, don't leave your vehicle. Instead call #77 or 911 for assistance. Motorists can also call #77 to report a disabled vehicle they see on the roadways.

For more information about the Walk Smart Campaign, visit [www.ohs.delaware.gov](http://www.ohs.delaware.gov) and click on Pedestrian Safety. The Sussex County CTSP Program is funded by the Delaware Office of Highway Safety and its coordinator is housed in the University of Delaware Cooperative Extension Office's in Georgetown. For more information about the Sussex CTSP program please visit <http://www.rec.udel.edu/Extension/Safety/Safetymain.htm>.

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