



MTA Press Releases

[Select Language](#) | ▼

Press Release

December 30, 2009

[Bridges & Tunnels](#)

IMMEDIATE

Message from MTA Bridges and Tunnels: Have a Safe and Happy New Year!

MTA Bridges and Tunnels reminds its customers never to operate a vehicle under the influence of alcohol or drugs, to ensure a safe New Year's holiday —and *every day*. If mass transit is not an option, please use common sense and arrange for a designated driver.

Bridges and Tunnel Officers, Sergeants and Lieutenants do not hold back when it comes to DUI (driving under the influence) enforcement. "Maintaining a safe environment for our customers is our number one goal, and we will stop and check any driver on our property who raises the slightest suspicion of intoxication," said the agency's Chief of Special Operations, James Fortunato. Nearly one third of all traffic-related deaths are linked to drivers who are under the influence drugs or alcohol. Thus far in 2009 there have been 350 DUI arrests at the agency's bridges and tunnels.

According to Fortunato there is historically a spike in DUI arrests at Bridges and Tunnels' facilities during the summer months, and another rise throughout the holiday season beginning after Thanksgiving.

The agency's advice for drivers who plan to be on the roads, bridges and tunnels during this time of seasonal celebrations includes the following tips to reduce the threat from substance-impaired driving, and help prevent injuries and accidents on the road:

- Don't drive after drinking alcohol or taking drugs that impair function.
- Plan ahead and designate a sober driver before a party or celebration.
- Do not let anyone else drive under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- Always obey toll plaza and bridge speed limits. Maintain a safe distance between you and the vehicle in front of you, especially if that vehicle is moving erratically, too slow, or too fast.
- Buckle your safety belt before starting your vehicle.
- Be prepared: visit www.mta.info and go to the "MTA Bridges and Tunnels" page for service updates about our nine crossings.

Traffic volume at MTA Bridges and Tunnels crossings is typically lower than normal over the New Year holiday. Last New Year's Eve, which fell on a Wednesday, total trips over and through the authority's seven bridges and two tunnels was approximately 704,000. New Year's Day, typically among the least traveled days of the year, total traffic was 540,000. On a typical non-holiday winter weekday—unaffected by extreme weather—the norm is about 800,000 crossings.

MTA Bridges and Tunnels facilities, which connect the five boroughs of New York City, are the Robert F. Kennedy (formerly Triborough), Throgs Neck, Bronx-Whitestone, Henry Hudson, Verrazano-Narrows, Cross Bay Veterans Memorial and Marine Parkway-Gil Hodges Memorial Bridges, and the Queens Midtown and Brooklyn-Battery Tunnels.