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Press Release

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[Bridges & Tunnels](#)

IMMEDIATE

Drive Safe, Drive Smart This New Year's

Lots of trains when you want them

With New Year's around the corner, MTA Bridges and Tunnels is reminding motorists that they should **never** drive under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Nearly a third of all traffic-related deaths are linked to drivers who get behind the wheel under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

MTA Bridges and Tunnels will have officers, sergeants and lieutenants at all MTA crossings looking for drivers suspected of driving under the influence. "The safety of all of those who use our crossings is our highest priority," said Vice President and Chief of Operations James Fortunato.

Through mid-December, Bridges and Tunnel personnel arrested 289 individuals at its seven bridges and two tunnels for driving under the influence (DUI). Historically, DUI arrests rise during summer months, and again after Thanksgiving when the holiday season begins.

Drivers are urged to mass transit or assign a designated driver to help prevent alcohol-related road accidents, and never allow anyone who has been drinking or using drugs to get behind the wheel. Motorists should also watch for cars that are driving erratically, including those going too fast or too slow.

In addition to DUI arrests, Bridges and Tunnels issued nearly 8,500 summonses through Dec. 13, 2012, including nearly 6,000 tickets for speeding, 2,000 for cell phone violations and 500 seat belt violations.

Traffic is typically lower over the New Year holiday. Last New Year's Eve, there were 588,000 trips taken at MTA crossings and about 630,000 on New Year's Day. The average weekday volume at MTA crossings is about 800,000.