

For Immediate Release

“Community Groups Partner with Law Enforcement to Take a Stand against Impaired Driving and Underage Drinking”

According to the most recent "Black Hills Community Needs Assessment (2006)" residents in Meade County cited alcohol use/abuse as one of the top ten community concerns.

In an effort to stop illegal, under-age drinking in Meade County the Sturgis Police Department, Meade County Sheriff's Department, and the Community Based Coalition Action for the Betterment of the Community will be making random checks on businesses that serve alcohol, setting up DUI Checkpoints, and offering Responsible Server Trainings for the public.

The South Dakota Youth Risk Behavior Survey Report (2007) compiled data related to the "six priority health risk behaviors" of students in grades 9 - 12 in 23 schools sampled throughout the state. In those schools, forty-four percent of the respondents reported having had at least one alcoholic drink, during the past 30 days.

Youth obtain alcohol from a variety of sources, and buying alcohol from distributors and vendors is but one way they find access. By conducting random compliance checks throughout the county law enforcement is able to provide education to those who potentially could break the law and sanctions to those who do.

Along with compliance checks Responsible Server training classes are offered at a substantially reduced charge to all employees of businesses that sell alcohol products in Meade County.

These activities are made possible by a Drug Free Communities granted partnership between ABC (Action for the Betterment of the Community) group and the Sturgis Police Department and the Meade County Sheriff's Department.

The idea to "Take a Stand Against Impaired Driving," focuses on a Safe Communities approach. This emphasizes that every part of the community; businesses, citizen groups, health care providers, police agencies, schools, government, the military, etc. has a role to play in the fight against impaired driving and underage drinking.