

Charleston County News Release

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Golf Cart Demonstrations Illustrate Realities of Drunk Driving

Demonstration to be held at Ashley Ridge and West Ashley High Schools

<u>The High School Injury Prevention Coalition</u>, formed by Charleston County <u>Emergency Medical Service (EMS)</u> and the MUSC Trauma Center, will hold two drunk driving demonstrations in April for local students.

The events will take place on:

- Monday, April 26 at <u>Ashley Ridge High School</u> from approximately 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. (9800 Delemar Highway)
- Thursday, April 29 at West Ashley High School from approximately 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. (4060 West Wildcat Boulevard)

Using the golf cart and wearing "drunk goggles" that simulate impaired vision at a blood alcohol level over the legal limit, students will maneuver through a driving course to experience the difficulty of driving while intoxicated. Police officers will be there performing field sobriety tests while the students wear the goggles, and students will also test their fine motor skills by trying to throw and catch a ball. An ambulance will also be there with crews telling students about what may happen when they are injured in an accident.

"The 'drunk goggles' only partially impair the student's driving," said Carl Fehr, a paramedic with Charleston County EMS who works with the program. "We also emphasize to students that, if they were truly intoxicated, all of their senses would be affected, including judgment and reflexes."

The High School Injury Prevention Coalition hosts different events in several high schools each month to continue spreading the message against Drunk Driving as well as making good decisions. Some of these events include the DUI Rodeo, seatbelt safety and candy handouts, guest speakers, lectures, art projects, and crash reenactments.

Some of the High School Injury Prevention Coalition partners are: Charleston County EMS, Medical University of South Carolina Level One Trauma Center, Roper St. Francis, East Cooper Hospital, City of Charleston Police, Pearlstine Distributors, Meducare, Dorchester County EMS, and SAFE Kids.

For more information about the High School Injury Prevention Coalition, contact Carl Fehr by phone at (843) 202-6700 or by e-mail at cfehr@charlestoncounty.org.

Visit the High School Injury Prevention Coalition website at www.hsipc.org for more information on the programs and assisting agencies.

Visit the Charleston County Web site at www.charlestoncounty.org for more information on Charleston County EMS, and for news, services and up-to-date information relating to Charleston County Government.