

For Immediate Release Tuesday, May 18, 2010 FMI: Jo Morrissey 773-7737 jmorrissey@mcd.org

Party Patrol Kits to Aid in Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws

Cumberland County, ME: As of Wednesday, May 19, 2010, every law enforcement agency within Cumberland County will be equipped with 'Party Patrol Kits' to respond to the scene of an underage drinking party.

There will be a press conference to display the contents of these kits, hear from the representatives of the Cumberland County Underage Drinking Enforcement Task Force on their use of these kits, and the opportunity for questions and answers from representatives of law enforcement within Cumberland County.

- Where: Portland Police Department Auditorium 109 Middle Street Portland, ME
- When: Wednesday, May 19th 10:00 a.m.

Over the past several years each department has trained officers in the protocol for responding to underage drinking parties. Collectively, all Cumberland County law enforcement agencies are responding to our communities' growing awareness of the inherent dangers of underage drinking.

"We know more than ever about the risks associated with underage drinking—such as drowning, accidental falls, suicides, and homicides. In fact, over 2/3 of underage drinking deaths have nothing to do with automobiles. Besides mortality, young drinkers also risk sexual assault, violence, vandalism, bodily injury, and damage to the developing brain," states Jo Morrissey, Chair of the Cumberland County Underage Drinking EnforcementTask Force.

The CCUDETF is convened by 21 Reasons with funding from the Maine Office of Substance Abuse that is contracted to us by the Healthy Maine Partnerships. The Task Force is made up of every law enforcement agency within Cumberland County in order to help facilitate cooperation around enforcing underage drinking laws.

FMI: www.21reasons.org

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