



Charleston County News Release

Release Number: 2949
Date: December 1, 2008

EMS Uses Golf Cart to Demonstrate Realities of Drunk Driving

Demonstration to be held at West Ashley High School

Charleston County's Emergency Medical Services (EMS) uses a different type of vehicle in the fight against drunk driving: a golf cart.

The High School Injury Prevention Coalition, formed by Charleston County EMS and the MUSC Trauma Center, will hold a drunk driving demonstration for local students.

The event will take place on:

- Wednesday, Dec. 3 at West Ashley High School, from approximately 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

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 catch a ball and keys.

An ambulance will also be at the school, with crews telling students about what may happen when they are injured in an accident. Meducare staff will speak to students about the drunk driving traumas they have transported to area hospitals on a daily basis.

"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 golf cart that will be used in the demonstrations was purchased through a South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) grant to help the High School Injury Prevention Coalition spread the word about the dangers of driving while intoxicated.

Some of the High School Injury Prevention Coalition partners are: Charleston County EMS, Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) Trauma Center, Roper St. Francis, City of Charleston Police, South Carolina Highway Patrol, Meducare, 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 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.