

## Charleston County News Release

Release Number: 2784

Date: March 2, 2007

*Note to media:* The media is invited to cover the event at Wando High School on Monday, March 5, at 10 a.m. Media contact on the day of the event is Denise Saxton, EMS Project Officer (843) 696-3658.

### **Wando High School Students Produce DUI Awareness Film**

*Students work with Injury Prevention Coalition to make "Law & Order: Special DUI Unit" film to gain awareness prior to this year's prom*

#### **Photos of Wando High School film production:**

<http://www.charlestoncounty.org/NewsImages/ems-dui.htm>

#### **Photos of previous DUI awareness programs:**

<http://www.charlestoncounty.org/NewsImages/ems-driving.htm>

Wando High School has joined forces with the High School Injury Prevention Coalition in an effort to raise awareness of the dangers of drinking and driving.

Wando High School has embraced the coalition's DUI Awareness Program, and the school's main project this year is the production of a short film to be completed in time for prom season.

The film will be based on the TV series "Law & Order" in that it will start with a crime, go into history and forensics, go through an investigation, and then finish with a court trial.

The "Law & Order: Special DUI Unit" short film will be shown to the school's student body two days prior to this year's prom.

The crash segment will be filmed at Wando High School on Monday, March 5, at 10 a.m. The segment will involve students and multiple agencies responding to a tragic event involving a drunk driver.

Wando High School students from the Drama Department, Video Production, and Mock Trial will all be participating in this first episode of filming. The filming will continue over several weeks, ending with a trial in "court." The final editing and production will be done by the students.

The High School Injury Prevention Coalition is now in four area high schools:

- Wando High School
- West Ashley High School
- Ft. Dorchester High School
- Summerville High School

The High School Injury Prevention Coalition was formed four years ago. Charleston County EMS and the High School Injury Prevention Coalition hold programs at local high schools so students can understand the dangers of drinking and driving.

"The purpose of the coalition is to influence and change unsafe driving behavior of high school students especially concerning their attitude about drinking and driving, speeding and seatbelt use," said Denise Saxton, a project officer with Charleston County EMS, who coordinates the program.

The coalition provides monthly, multi-agency, coordinated injury prevention activities in each school.

The Coalition's founding members are Charleston County EMS; the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) Trauma Center; South Carolina Highway Patrol; North Charleston Police Department and SAFE KIDS Trident Area.

Agencies participating in Monday's event include:

- East Cooper Regional Medical Center
- East Cooper Emergency Physicians
- Mt. Pleasant Police Department
- Mt. Pleasant Fire Department
- Charleston County EMS
- Charleston County Volunteer Fire & Rescue Squad
- Charleston County Coroner's Office
- Coastal Crisis Chaplaincy
- MUSC Trauma Center
- SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions)
- Health Occupational Students of America (HOSA)
- Numerous volunteers

Other agencies and sponsors who belong to the High School Injury Prevention Coalition are:

- SAFE KIDS Trident Area
- John Dodds, III, Esquire
- South Carolina Highway Patrol
- North Charleston Police Department
- North Charleston Fire Department
- Emergency Nurses Association (ENA)
- Dorchester County EMS
- City of Charleston Fire Department
- City of Charleston Police Department
- Charleston County Sheriff's Office
- Summerville Medical Center
- Summerville Police Department
- Summerville Fire Department
- Dorchester County Coroner's Office
- Ashley River Fire Department
- Old Fort Fire Department
- WAL-MART

The High School Injury Prevention Coalition continues to grow each year with more agencies coming on board.

"With our multi-agency coordination, we have formed strong bonds now with many organizations and local government agencies," Saxton said. "Our goal is to utilize this multi-agency partnership in the future for other projects."

Charleston County EMS received the Excellence in Injury Prevention Award one year ago, in March of 2006, for being a finalist for the national Nicholas Rosecrans Award. The award was given for the County's dynamic DUI program and the High School Injury Prevention Coalition.

Charleston County EMS was also highlighted this year for its DUI prevention program in the Journal of Emergency Medical Services, a national EMS magazine.

Visit the Charleston County Web site at [www.charlestoncounty.org](http://www.charlestoncounty.org) for more information on Charleston County EMS, and for news, services and up-to-date information relating to Charleston County Government.

- Written by Jennie Davis -