



## SONJA MARIE DeVRIES

JUNE 22, 1985 – JULY 19, 2004

Sonja Marie DeVries was an extraordinary 19 year-old, with everything for which to live. She worked at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science for six summers as a teacher assistant and team leader. She was an accomplished tap dancer and was accepted to attend Naropa University. All of that changed in a single instance.

Sonja was killed while simply sitting in her car at a Denver intersection when a pickup truck careened through the red light—speeding at approximately 60-70 mph in a 35 mph zone. Sonja was declared brain dead at the hospital and unplugged from life support. The drunk driver's blood alcohol was 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> times the legal limit and he had six prior DUIs.

The DeVries family wanted to prevent this horrible tragedy from happening to others and to create a legacy to all victims and their families who had walked in their shoes and lost a loved one due to an impaired driver.

Sen. Peter Groff and Rep. Jim Reisberg helped champion their cause and passed legislation in 2006 which created the Colorado Interagency Task Force on Drunk Driving.

## IN COLORADO, DID YOU KNOW...?

- Over 40% of fatal crashes involve alcohol?
- Each year, more than 30,000 people are arrested for DUI?
- The minimum cost of a first-time DUI is \$10,270?

## MEETING INFORMATION

Colorado's Interagency Task Force on Drunk Driving meets every other month at:

Colorado Department of Transportation  
4201 E. Arkansas Avenue  
Denver, CO 80222

For meeting dates, agendas and the annual reports, visit the Task Force web site at:  
[dot.state.co.us/TrafficSafety/DUITaskForce/index.cfm](http://dot.state.co.us/TrafficSafety/DUITaskForce/index.cfm)

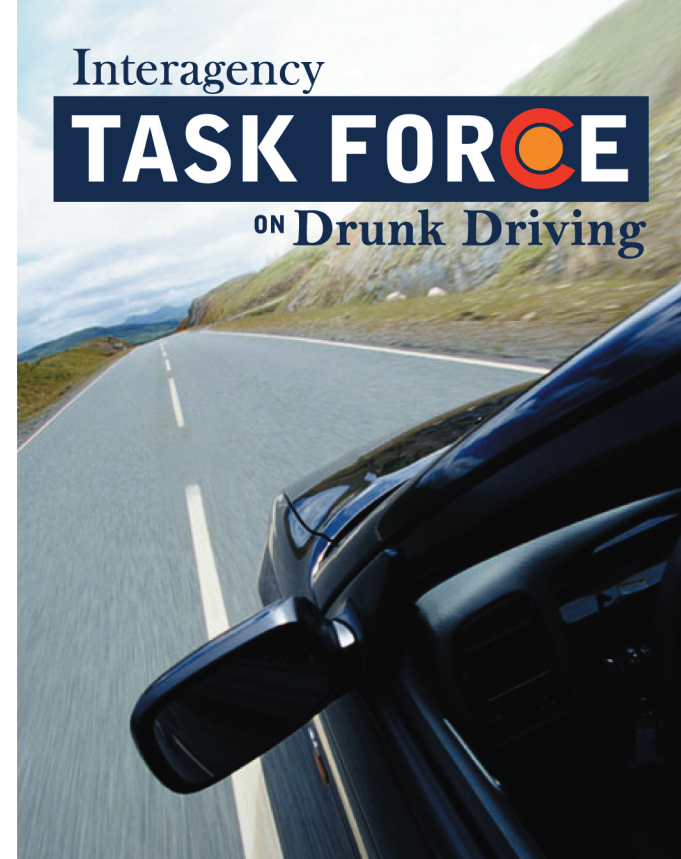
For more information, contact:  
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Interagency  
**TASK FORCE**  
ON Drunk Driving

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WORKING TOGETHER  
TO FIND SOLUTIONS



## THE PROBLEM

Each year in Colorado, drunk driving kills more than 200 people and injures thousands of innocent victims. These crashes cost the state's citizens tens of millions of dollars in medical bills, lost wages, increased insurance premiums, property damage, and countless other expenses. While the overall number of alcohol-related traffic fatalities has declined in recent years, alcohol continues to be involved in about 40% of all traffic fatalities in Colorado. Getting and keeping impaired drivers off the road remains an enormous challenge, one that continues to defy easy solutions.

## FINDING SOLUTIONS

In an effort to generate more collaboration and consensus for effective solutions to the impaired driving problem, the Interagency Task Force on Drunk Driving (ITFDD) was established in 2006 by the Colorado General Assembly. Senate Bill 192 was passed in honor of Sonja Marie DeVries, who was killed by a drunk driver who had six previous impaired driving convictions.

*The official mission of the task force is "to investigate methods of reducing incidents of drunk and impaired driving and develop recommendations for the State of Colorado regarding the enhancement of government services, education, and intervention to prevent drunk and impaired driving."*

Members of the ITFDD are designated by statute and represent various state agencies, the law enforcement and legal community, safety advocates, private businesses and citizens.

## WORKING TOGETHER

The Interagency Task Force on Drunk Driving is comprised of people with a broad spectrum of expertise to develop effective solutions to the problem of impaired driving. The task force serves as an expert advisory group to state legislators, but other groups and individuals are welcome to present concepts or provide input related to the common goal of reducing drunk driving. All meetings are open to the public.

The objectives of the ITFDD are achieved through the work of various sub-committees, including: communications, ignition interlock, intervention, persistent drunk driving, prevention, systems improvement and victims' rights and services. The work of the ITFDD and its sub-committees is reported to the General Assembly through an annual report.

## WHO WE ARE

The ITFDD is made up of the following members or their designees:

- Executive Director, Dept. of Transportation
- Executive Director, Dept. of Revenue
- State Court Administrator
- Chief, Colorado State Patrol
- State Public Defender
- Director, Division of Behavioral Health
- Director, Division of Probation Services

Additionally, a representative from each of these statewide organizations serves on the ITFDD:

- Colorado Association of Chiefs of Police
- County Sheriff's of Colorado
- Organization of Victims of Impaired Driving
- Colorado District Attorney's Council
- Colorado Criminal Defense Bar
- Alcohol Beverages Manufacturer
- Colorado Licensed Beverage Association
- Colorado Beer Distributors Association

The ITFDD also includes:

- A college student under age 24
- A victim or family member of a victim of drunk or impaired driving

Interagency  
**TASK FORCE**  
on Drunk Driving

# MISSION:

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