

# Winston-Salem Police Department Crime Prevention Unit



# **Road Rage and Aggressive Driving Prevention**

**Presented by  
Winston-Salem Police Department  
Crime Prevention Unit**

# Topics of Discussion

- What is Road Rage
- What is Aggressive Driving
- Where does it occur
- Statistics
- Preventive measures
- Reporting incidents
- Summary

# Road Rage Defined

- A deliberate act of violence stemming from a minor traffic incident in which the aggressor intends to harm the other driver or his/her property

# Aggressive Driving Defined

- Violations of motor vehicle laws that can be dangerous or fatal
- Examples:
  - Tailgating
  - Speeding
  - Improper passing or lane change
  - Stop signs and stop light violations
  - Flashing headlights in anger

# Where Does it Occur?

- Anywhere there is a road or vehicle
- Highways
- City Streets
- Rural Roads
- Parking lots
- Parking Decks

# Causes of Road Rage and Aggressive Driving

- Busy work schedule
- Crowded roads
- Construction
- Personal problems
- Stress
- Other drivers

# Statistics

- US Department of Justice has ranked aggressive driving as a top highway safety issue
- A survey by AAA reveals Road Rage is feared more by motorists than DWI or speeders
- 56% of all highway deaths involved aggressive driving

# Statistics

- NC ranked 31<sup>th</sup> in Nation for Road Rage deaths
- In 2006, Winston Salem had 24 deaths from traffic crashes
- One fatality every 13 minutes
- One injury every 9 seconds
- One Crash every 5 seconds

# Preventive Measures

- Leave early, to allow extra time
- Call ahead if you are running late
- Only use left lane for passing
- Leave extra room between cars
- Do not make hand gestures or eye contact with angry drivers
- Remember...it is usually the instigator that gets hurt

# Preventive Measures

- Use signals when changing lanes
- Avoid using the cell phone when driving
- Pay attention to your driving habits
- Do not speed
- Drive in a courteous manner
- Report unsafe drivers to law enforcement

# Reporting Aggressive Drivers

- Use 911 on cell phone
- Describe the vehicle
  - Color, Make, Year, License plate number
- Describe the driver
  - Gender, Race, Clothing description
  - Hair style
- Report non-emergency incidents to 773-7700

# Summary

- Don't allow your emotions to dictate your actions
- Don't let other drivers control you
- Leave early for your destination
- Report incidents
- Obey traffic laws
- Acknowledge that you can't control other drivers

# Questions

