



DPS urges Spring Break travelers to avoid Mexico

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The Texas Department of Public Safety is urging all Texas Spring Breakers to avoid traveling to border cities in Mexico.

"There is an increase in Mexican drug cartel related violence in the northern Mexican border cities. Parents should not allow their children to visit these Mexican cities because their safety cannot be guaranteed," said DPS director Steven C. McCraw.

The U.S. State Department web site lists several travel alerts related to violence in Mexico. Travelers should always check that web site for the most up-to-date information related to security issues in Mexico. (See http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_970.html).

During the Spring Break season, DPS will have extra troopers on patrol looking for DWIs, seatbelt violators and speeders.

"We want Spring Break to be memorable, but in a good way," said David Baker, assistant director, Texas Highway Patrol. "You don't want to get arrested for DWI, receive a ticket or be injured somehow because you were irresponsible. Have fun, but please be safe."

DPS is offering several tips for a safe Spring Break.

- * Don't text while driving.
- * Wear your seat belt.
- * Don't drink and drive.
- * Find a sober friend to do the driving.
- * Don't leave your drink unattended, and don't accept drinks from strangers.
- * Keep a fresh driver behind the wheel, or stop every couple of hours to rest and walk around.
- * Make sure your vehicle is properly maintained.
- * Keep your friends close.