



**MEDIA RELEASE**  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**THIS JULY 4<sup>TH</sup> HOLIDAY, AND EVERY DAY, REMEMBER:  
*DUI DOESN'T JUST MEAN BOOZE***

**Staying Safe on Independence Day**

Celebrated across the country, Independence Day is often marked by great food, fireworks, and time making memories with family and friends. Don't let those good memories turn into nightmares by making the tragic decision to drive under the influence of alcohol or drugs. This July Fourth, let's all work together to spread the life-saving message that driving impaired is unacceptable, deadly, and illegal behavior. It puts drivers and passengers at risk, as well as other road users. In fact, in 2016, an average of one person was killed in a drunk-driving crash every 50 minutes. As you, your friends, and your family head out to the July Fourth festivities this summer, keep safety at the forefront. During the Fourth of July holiday weekend, make sure you plan for a safe week of festivities, keeping in mind this vital message: *DUI DOESN'T JUST MEAN BOOZE*.

Please remember these drunk-driving statistics as you prepare to party this summer:

- In 2016, 10,497 people were killed in drunk-driving crashes—almost a third of all traffic fatalities nationwide. To put it in perspective, that's equal to about 20 jumbo jets crashing, with no survivors.
- Over the 2016 Fourth of July holiday (6 p.m. July 2 to 5:59 a.m. July 6), 188 people were killed in crashes involving at least one driver or motorcycle operator with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .08 or higher. This is a 28-percent increase from 2015, during which 146 people were killed during the same holiday period.
- During the 2016 July Fourth holiday period, nearly half of those who died were in a vehicle crash involving at least one driver or motorcycle operator with a blood alcohol concentration of .15 or higher—almost twice the legal limit.
- Alcohol impairment among drivers involved in fatal crashes during the 2016 July Fourth holiday period was more than three times higher at night than it was during the day.

- From 2012 to 2016, there were 780 people killed in drunk-driving crashes over the Fourth of July holiday periods.

### **Drug Impaired Driving**

- In the ten years from 2005-2015, the percentage of drivers in fatal crashes with an impairing drug other than alcohol in their system has risen from 26.2 percent to 42.6 percent. As far back as 2012, a roadside survey in California showed more drivers tested positive for drugs that may impair driving (14 percent) than did for alcohol (7.3 percent). Of the drugs, marijuana was most prevalent, at 7.4 percent, slightly more than alcohol.
- In addition to marijuana, a driver could be subject to a DUI arrest if they are under the influence of prescription medications like sleep aids, tranquilizers, barbiturates, opiates and other pain killers, anti-depressants, and even over-the-counter allergy or cough medications.
- In the face of more drug-impaired drivers on the road, Police, Sheriff and CHP are training more officers in Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE) and Drug Recognition Evaluation (DRE). The advanced training augments the Standardized Field Sobriety Test to help identify what substances other than alcohol a driver may be impaired by and how seriously they are impaired.

### **Party with a Plan**

Don't let the plans get away from you—it's imperative to your safety, and the safety of others, to plan a responsible, sober ride home from your celebration. You can also do your part by volunteering to be a designated sober driver! Through our DDVIP program, select bars and restaurants are offering non-alcoholic specialty drinks for sober drivers, among other deals: <http://bit.ly/OTSDDrinks>.

Here are a few tips to help you prepare for a safe night of fun:

- Remember that it is never okay to drive after drinking. Even if you've had only one alcoholic beverage, designate a sober driver or plan to use public transportation or a ride share service to get home safely.
- Download NHTSA's SaferRide mobile app, available on Google Play for Android devices: (<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.nhtsa.SaferRide&hl=en>) , and Apple's iTunes Store for iOS devices: (<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/saferride/id950774008?mt=8>). SaferRide allows users to call a taxi or a predetermined friend, and identifies the user's location so he or she can be picked up.
- If you see a drunk driver, remember: Report Drunk Drivers - Call 911!
- Have a friend who is about to drink and drive? Take the keys away and make arrangements to get your friend home safely.

### **Drunk Driving Comes at a Cost**

Drunk driving can cost you your life, but it can also cost you financially. Here's how:

- If you're caught drinking and driving, you could face jail time. Imagine trying to explain that to your friends and family or your place of employment if you're unable to report to work.
- Drinking and driving could cause you to lose your driver's license and your vehicle. This could inhibit you from getting to work, resulting in lost wages and, potentially, job loss.
- If you kill someone while drinking and driving, you could face manslaughter charges.
- Financially, a first-time DUI arrest could cost you up to \$10,000 in attorney fees, fines, car towing, repairs, higher insurance rates, and lost time at work. The average cost for a DUI offense is \$13,500.

This Fourth of July, commit to only driving when you're 100-percent sober, because *dui Doesn't Just Mean Booze.*



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**Media Contact:**

Adam Ketchum  
Police Officer  
(805) 227-7490  
aketchum@prcity.com