



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Erin Eggen
Kentucky Office of Highway Safety
erin.eggen@ky.gov
502-782-4822

This Fourth of July, Remember: Buzzed Driving is Drunk Driving
Help prevent impaired driving crashes during the holiday weekend

FRANKFORT, Ky. (June 27, 2022) – As Kentuckians celebrate Independence Day next weekend, the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) is joining the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) to remind drivers that “Buzzed Driving Is Drunk Driving.”

Unfortunately, the holiday weekend can create dangerous driving situations when individuals choose to drive while impaired.

“We want all Kentuckians to enjoy their Independence Day festivities,” said Gov. Andy Beshear. “However, we encourage everyone to celebrate responsibly by booking a safe ride home or designating a sober driver if your celebrations include alcohol. The top priority for everyone has to be keeping themselves and others safe.”

Last year in Kentucky, there were 83 crashes involving a drunken and/or drugged driver over the Fourth of July holiday period, resulting in 36 injuries and four deaths.

“Impaired driving is 100 percent preventable,” said KYTC Secretary Jim Gray. “Drivers must understand that drugs and/or alcohol not only hinder your ability to drive, but also affect your judgment about whether you can or should drive. You may think you’re fine, but impairment slows judgment, coordination and reaction times.”

According to NHTSA, impaired driving fatalities typically spike during holidays. To prevent tragedies from occurring, the KYTC recommends the following:

- Before the festivities begin, plan a way to get home at the end of the night safely;
- If you’re impaired, use a ride-booking company, taxi, call a sober friend or family member or use public transportation to get home safely;
- If you see an impaired driver, safely pull over and contact law enforcement. You may dial the KSP toll-free line directly at 1-800-222-5555 or call 911.
- If you know people who are about to drive or ride while impaired, take their keys and help them make other arrangements to get to their destination safely.
- Wear a seat belt! It is not only the law, it is the best defense against an impaired driver. Buckling up helps prevent injury and death if involved in a crash.

“If you are under the influence of any substance and choose to get behind the wheel, you put everyone on the road in danger, including yourself,” said Gray. “Remember – buzzed driving is drunk driving.”

For more information on drunken driving visit <https://www.nhtsa.gov/risky-driving/drunk-driving>. For more information on drug-impaired driving visit <https://www.nhtsa.gov/risky-driving/drug-impaired-driving>

###

buzzed
driving is
drunk
driving
designate a sober driver