



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
TRANSPORTATION CABINET
transportation.ky.gov

Andy Beshear
GOVERNOR

Jim Gray
SECRETARY

Contact: Erin Eggen
Office of Highway Safety
Erin.Eggen@ky.gov
(502) 782-4822

For Immediate Release

Motorists Encouraged to Be Safe This Halloween

Office of Highway Safety reminds drivers that “Buzzed Driving Is Drunk Driving”

FRANKFORT, Ky. (Oct. 24, 2022) – This Halloween, the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet’s (KYTC) Office of Highway Safety is partnering with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) to remind motorists that “Buzzed Driving Is Drunk Driving” and to celebrate responsibly.

“As we make strides to experience a sense of normalcy in light of the pandemic, I want to encourage Kentuckians to celebrate Halloween safely by making plans for a sober ride home if you plan to drink and watching for pedestrians,” said Gov. Andy Beshear. “A few preventive measures can mean the difference between life and death.”

According to NHTSA, approximately one-third of all traffic crash fatalities in the United States involve drunken drivers. On Halloween night in 2020, 56 people were killed in drunken-driving crashes nationwide, including 11 pedestrians.

“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 KYTC Secretary Jim Gray. “Consuming drugs 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 the KOHS, last year in Kentucky there were 4,670 total crashes involving an impaired driver, resulting in 2,187 injuries and 194 deaths. Over the Halloween weekend 68 alcohol-involved collisions resulted in 3 deaths (2 pedestrians) and 35 injuries.

“Drivers should also keep an eye out for pedestrians — whether they be children trick-or-treating or adults who have had too much to drink,” said Sec. Gray. “Walking while

intoxicated can also be deadly, as lack of attention to their surroundings could put pedestrians at risk of getting hit by a vehicle.”

Follow these simple tips for a safe and happy evening:

- Remember that it is never okay to drink and drive. Even if you’ve had only one alcoholic beverage, designate a sober driver or plan to use public transportation or a ride booking service to get home safely.
- Walking while impaired can be just as dangerous as drunken driving. Designate a sober friend to walk you home.
- If you see a drunken driver, contact law enforcement. You may dial the KSP toll-free line directly at 1-800-222-5555 or use the one-touch dial feature through the [KSP app](#). Callers will remain anonymous and should give a description of the vehicle, location, direction of travel and license number if possible.
- Have a friend who is about to drink and drive? Take the keys away and make arrangements to get your friend home safely.
- Wear a seat belt while in a vehicle. 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.
- Use caution if walking while intoxicated. While you may be doing the right thing by not drinking and driving, risks still exist.

For more information, visit <https://www.nhtsa.gov/campaign/buzzed-driving>

###



buzzed
driving is
drunk
driving
designate a sober driver

