

Licking County Health Department
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Fans
Don't Let
Fans
Drive Drunk.

Fans Don't Let Fans Drive Drunk

Make the right play to save your life and others.

[Newark, OH] – The Licking County Safe Communities Coalition and the Licking County Health Department announced today they are joining forces with the National Football League (NFL), the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), and other state and local highway safety and law enforcement officials to remind everyone to act responsibly by designating a sober driver if they plan on drinking alcohol on Super Bowl Sunday.

“We want to pass our safety message to everyone who will be drinking this weekend, real *Fans Don't Let Fans Drive Drunk*,” said Joe Ebel, Licking County Health Commissioner. “Please act responsibly, designate a sober driver before the Super Bowl party begins and leave your car keys at home.”

Super Bowl Sunday is one of America's biggest and most entertaining national sporting events as friends and families gather to socialize and watch the big game. Yet, it has also become one of the nation's most dangerous days on the roadways due to impaired driving.

According to research by the NHTSA, in 2008, fatalities in alcohol-impaired-driving crashes accounted for 32 percent of all motor vehicle traffic fatalities. On Super Bowl Sunday (February 3 to 5:59 am February 4), 49 percent of the fatalities occurred in crashes where a driver or motorcycle rider had a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) level above the legal limit of .08.

“Designating a sober driver should be on the top of everyone's Super Bowl party list,” said Ebel. “It's just one of several easy steps to help save lives.”

Additional tips from the NHTSA follows. To learn more information you can also visit www.stopimpaireddriving.org

If you are hosting a Super Bowl party:

- Remember, you can be held liable and prosecuted if someone you served ends up in an impaired-driving crash.
- Make sure all of your guests designate their sober drivers in advance, or help arrange ride-sharing with other sober drivers.
- Serve lots of food and include lots of non-alcoholic beverages at the party.
- Stop serving alcohol at the end of the third quarter of the game and begin serving coffee and dessert.
- Keep the numbers for local cab companies handy, and take the keys away from anyone who is thinking of driving while impaired.

If you are attending a Super Bowl party or watching at a sports bar or restaurant:

- Designate your sober driver before the party begins and leave your car keys at home.
- Avoid drinking too much alcohol too fast. Pace yourself—eat enough food, take breaks, and alternate with non-alcoholic drinks.
- If you don't have a designated driver, ask a sober friend for a ride home; call a cab, friend, or family member to come and get you; or just stay where you are and sleep it off until you are sober.
- Never let a friend get behind the wheel of their vehicle if you think they are about to drive while impaired. Remember, *Fans Don't Let Fans Drive Drunk*.
- Always buckle up – it's still your best defense against other impaired drivers.

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