



**CITY OF MISSOULA
POLICE DEPARTMENT**
Public Information Office

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release:

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**Enjoy a Safe Independence Day:
Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over**

Extra law enforcement patrols will be out in Missoula and Missoula County during the Fourth of July holiday working to reduce impaired driving. The Missoula Police Department, Missoula County Sheriff's Department, and the Montana Highway Patrol urge all drivers to remain sober or find someone who is.

In Montana, impaired drivers are involved in nearly half of all fatal crashes and in three out of every 10 serious injury crashes.¹ If your Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) level is above zero, your vision, reflexes and reasoning may be impaired, and you should not be driving.

"Drive sober, or you will get pulled over," said Missoula Police Department Sergeant Greg Amundsen. "While one drink may have limited effects on one individual, it may cause substantial impairment to another. Even if you've only had one drink, it's not safe to get behind the wheel."

Before the celebrations begin, plan ahead. Designating a sober driver, taking public transportation, Uber and taxi cabs and offering non-alcoholic drinks are all ways you can better ensure the safety of everyone. Reporting drunk drivers on the roads and wearing seat belts also increase safety.

"It's a holiday—people are going to celebrate," said Sergeant Greg Amundsen. "As a community, it's our job to look out for one another and make sure everyone is aware of the consequences of and alternatives to drinking and driving."

In all 50 states, it is illegal to drive with a BAC of .08 or higher. If you are pulled over and found to be impaired, you will receive a DUI citation, get your license revoke, and possibly receive jail time and up to \$10,000 in fines. And the stakes increase with each DUI.

Extra traffic safety patrols are funded by the Montana Department of Transportation. This and other enforcement and educational campaigns are strategies to reach Vision Zero—zero deaths and zero serious injuries on Montana roadways. For more information about Vision Zero, contact Charity Watt, Montana Department of Transportation, 406-444-3439, cwatt@mt.gov.
