



City of Missoula
Police Department
Press Release

For immediate release:

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Extra Patrols are Out to Deter Impaired Driving

Alcohol-impaired driving crashes make the Fourth of July one of the deadliest holidays of the year, so the Missoula Police Department is stepping up traffic patrols to help keep travelers safe.

“Too many people die each year due to those who choose to drive impaired, so our officers will be out in full force this Fourth of July showing zero tolerance for impaired drivers,” said Sergeant Greg Amundsen. “This is a time of year with many parties and celebrating, but there is nothing to celebrate if you get a DUI, crash your vehicle, or injure or kill someone.”

Officers will concentrate on impaired driving, speeding and encouraging the proper use of seat belts and child restraints.

Sgt. Amundsen also offers these reminders for safety:

- **Designate a Driver.** Before the fun begins, designate your sober driver.
- **Buckle Up.** Every trip, every time – even for short distances.
- **Arrange for a safe ride.** The designated driver doesn’t have to be at the party, as long as he/she is willing to drop off and pick up party guests.
- **Keep Ride Options on Speed Dial.** Be it a taxi, friend, neighbor, or parent, have that go-to number programed in your phone.
- **Use A Ride Home Program.**
- **Plan Your Own Ride Program.** As a party host, have a plan with taxis or designated drivers to get your guests home safely.
- **Plan to Spend the Night.** Crashing on a couch is better than crashing a car. If you're going to a house party, why not spend the night?
- **Call a Taxi.**

“We’d rather everyone make the choice to have a sober driver than to risk a DUI or worse,” Amundsen said.

The additional patrols are funded by the Montana Department of Transportation Selective Traffic Enforcement Programs (STEP) grants.

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