



MEDIA RELEASE

Criminal Justice Services

Ohio Criminal Justice Services • Karhlton F. Moore, Executive Director
www.ocjs.ohio.gov



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Fans Don't Let Fans Drive Drunk

Make the right play for the big game to save your life and others

(COLUMBUS) - The Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS), a division of the Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS), and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), want to remind everyone that *Fans Don't Let Fans Drive Drunk*. Please be sure to designate a sober driver if you plan to drink alcohol on Super Bowl Sunday.

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 game. During last year's Super Bowl, the Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP) made 53 OVI-related arrests from Feb. 6, 2011, at 6 a.m. through Feb. 7, 2011, at 6 a.m. During this 24-hour reporting period, there were four fatalities and 148 injuries resulting from traffic crashes. All four of the traffic fatalities and 32 of the injuries were from OVI-related crashes.

"While we want people to enjoy the big game, we want them to do so responsibly," said OCJS Executive Director Karhlton Moore. "We want everyone to take the appropriate steps to ensure they get home safely."

Getting caught driving while impaired will earn you a costly penalty from law enforcement, and may even result in losing your driving privileges. For bars and establishments, over-serving or serving underage patrons could also mean costly fines, suspension or revocation of their liquor permit.

To help keep the roads safe this Super Bowl weekend, more than 78 local law enforcement agencies around the state will be conducting more than 1,800 hours of enforcement activity and 800 hours of saturation patrols in addition to four sobriety checkpoints, funded by federal grants provided through OCJS. The Patrol will also have a visible presence on the state's highways. For a complete list of participating agencies, please visit: <http://www.publicsafety.ohio.gov/links/MR2012/HVEOGrantees.xls>.

"We can't fight the battle against impaired driving on our own – we need your commitment to make our roads safe," said Colonel John Born, Patrol superintendent. "You can contribute to a safer Ohio by actively influencing friends and family to make safe, responsible decisions -- like planning ahead to designate a driver and insisting that everyone in the vehicle is buckled up."

Designating a sober driver should be on the top of everyone's Super Bowl party list along with these tips to stay safe:

If you are hosting a Super Bowl party:

- Make sure all of your guests designate their sober drivers before kick-off or help arrange ride-sharing with other sober drivers.
- Serve plenty of food and non-alcoholic drinks.
- Only serve alcohol to guests over 21 years of age.

Page 2
Fans Don't Let Fans Drive Drunk
February 2, 2012

- 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.
- Take appropriate steps to prevent anyone from driving while impaired.
- Be prepared for guests to spend the night if an alternative way home is not available.

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 if you plan to drink.
- Avoid drinking too much alcohol too fast. Pace yourself—eat enough food, take breaks, and alternate with non-alcoholic drinks.
- If you are a bar, permit holder or employee and have questions about over-serving or other liquor-permit related issues, contact one of the Ohio Investigative Unit's (OIU) regional offices. Contact information is listed online at: <http://investigativeunit.ohio.gov/>. OIU offers free instruction on laws pertaining to the sale and/or consumption of alcohol and tobacco. Agents also cover topics such as false identification, employment of minors, along with penalties for those found in violation.
- 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.
- If available, use your community's Sober Rides program. (Check with your local taxi company or ask your server or bartender for more information.)
- Take appropriate steps to prevent anyone from driving 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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ODPS works to reduce deaths and injuries and improve the quality of life for Ohioans through the coordinated efforts of its Divisions, which include OSHP, OIU and OCJS. OSHP enforces traffic laws and OIU enforces liquor, tobacco and food stamp laws in liquor permit premises as well as works to educate bar owners and servers about liquor laws, including over-serving. OCJS funds the efforts of OVI Task Forces and other grants for law enforcement to combat impaired and unsafe driving and increase seat belt use. OCJS also promotes educational programs, coalition-building efforts and campaigns for highway safety.