

## Have a Plan Whether You're Driving, Riding or Hosting

If you're celebrating and drinking this holiday and Superbowl season, always remember to plan ahead with a sober driver to take you home. If you're the designated driver, it's important to take the role seriously and don't consume alcohol or use other drugs. Here are some more safety tips:

- Never drink and drive.
- Don't let someone get behind the wheel if that person has been drinking.
- If you're hosting a gathering, make sure everyone has a sober ride home.
- Call 911 if you see a drunk driver.

Always wear your seat belt. It's your best defense against impaired drivers.

Driving after drinking is deadly. Yet it still continues to happen across the United States. If you drive while impaired, you could get arrested, or worse — be involved in a traffic crash that causes serious injury or death.

NHTSA states that about 30% of all traffic crash fatalities in the United States involve drunk drivers (with BACs of .08 g/dL or higher). In 2020, there were 11,654 people killed in these preventable crashes. In fact, on average over the 10-year period from 2011-2020, about 10,500 people died every year in drunk-driving crashes. In every state, it's illegal to drive drunk, yet one person was killed in a drunk-driving crash every 45 minutes in the United States in 2020.



## Be Responsible

Your life and the lives of others on the road are at risk every time a driver gets behind the wheel after drinking. Here are a few tips to stay safe.

- Before drinking, choose a designated driver, or schedule a taxi, shuttle, or ride of some kind.
- If you are hosting a party where there's alcohol, offer non-alcoholic drink options and make sure all guests leave with a sober driver.
- Always wear your seat belt — it's the best defense against drunk drivers.

## On Super Bowl Sunday, Fans Don't Let Fans Drive Drunk

Stay in the Game; Use a Designated Driver



### Enforcement Update:

- DWI: Nov 23-26; Dec 1-3; 8-10; 15-17; 22-24; 29-31, 2022
- DWI (optional): Feb 11-12, 2023—Super Bowl
- DWI (optional) : March 16-18, 2023 - St. Patrick's Day
- Distracted Driving—April 1-30, 2023

### Weekly Traffic Fatality Update

- In 2022 through December 28th, there were 433 traffic-related deaths on Minnesota roadways. This is 11% less than there were at this time last year (484).
- Speed-related deaths are 32 % less that at this time last year.
- Pedestrian deaths (41) are 26% lower than they were at this time last year (55), and lower than the past five years.

### Keep Safety in Mind When Ice Fishing

Fishing is a rather common hobby, and in some areas of the world, some people take it to the next level with ice fishing.

One thing you may not know about ice fishing though – if you're drinking alcohol while doing so, you could be getting in legal trouble! It is a crime for any person to drive, operate, or be in physical control of any motor vehicle when under the influence. This means that if you operate a motor vehicle anywhere in Minnesota, by either land, air, or sea, you can be charged with driving under the influence.

Why is it dangerous to drink while ice fishing?

- Falling through the ice
- Freezing to death
- Can't feel footing
- Dehydration

Whenever or wherever you are drinking, always plan for a sober ride!



### Winter Walk to School

Safe Routes to School is getting ready for their sixth annual event that takes place on February 1, 2022. It's a celebration of walking, biking and playing in the coldest and snowiest days of winter. The idea is to simply go for at least a 15 minute walk and don't let the cold outdoors scare you! Celebrations can start small such as in a community or it can be an entire school!



Go to the SRTS Resource Center for more information, messaging samples, social media posts, flyers, postcards, frequent walker punch cards, and sticker templates to use!

### Mark you Calendars!

#### 2023

- NW Region TZD Steering Committee Teams Meeting –March 9, 2023 @ Bemidji MnDOT Headquarters (in-person only) from 10:0-11:30am.
- NW Region TZD Workshop—April 25, 2023, Legacy Center, Thief River Falls
- Teen TZD Conference—April 26, 2023, Evangelical Free Church, Thief River Falls
- TZD State Conference - November 14-15, 2023 (T-W), Mayo Civic Center, Rochester

### Traffic Trivia

*Question:* In what year did Minnesota Legislature criminalized DWI?

*Answer:*  
1911



### Toward Zero Deaths Northwest Regional Newsletter

Sue Johnson, Towards Zero Deaths Coordinator – NW Region

248 125th Ave

Thief River Falls, MN 56701

218-766-5943

