



Franklin Lakes Police Department

Traffic Bureau



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Franklin Lakes Police Department wants to remind residents to drink responsibly and use designated drivers this holiday weekend.

July 4th celebrations often include cook-outs, picnics, boating, and of course time spent with friends and family. But for too many Americans, the nation's annual celebration is filled with tragedy, as this iconic American holiday is also one of the deadliest holidays of the year due to drunk-driving crashes.

Impaired driving is one of America's deadliest problems. In 2016 alone 10,497 people were killed in alcohol-impaired-driving crashes, accounting for nearly 28 percent of all traffic-related fatalities in the United States. That's an average of one impaired-driving fatality every 50 minutes in 2016.

Statistics gathered from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration over the past 25 years show that, on average, nearly half of all deadly traffic crashes over each year's July 4th holiday involved some level of alcohol.

In fact, 188 people were killed in motor vehicle traffic crashes nationally during the Fourth of July weekend in 2016. This is a 28% increase from 2015. Of that number, nearly half of those killed were in crashes where the involved drivers had a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .15 grams per deciliter or higher almost twice the legal limit.

This is why it is imperative that State and Local Law Enforcement be out in full force during the Fourth of July holiday weekend, cracking down on impaired drivers with aggressive drunk driving enforcement.

There is simply no excuse for getting behind the wheel if you have been drinking. Your life and the lives of your friends and family are too important to not have a plan to get home safely. To prevent your holiday weekend from ending in embarrassment or even tragedy, please drink responsibly and remember to use designated drivers. You can also use car services, taxis, local transportation and Uber provide some other options for a safe ride.

Remember: Buzzed Driving is Drunk Driving.

Have a Safe and Happy Summer!

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Citizens are encouraged to call 911 to report possible drunk drivers.