



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 15th, 2021

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**NHTSA and Silverton Police, Silverton Oregon Urge Community:
Remember: *Buzzed Driving Is Drunk Driving***

Drive Sober This Holiday Season

Silverton, Oregon — This holiday season, Silverton Police Department is teaming up with the U.S. Department of Transportation’s National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) to remind all drivers about the dangers of drinking and driving. Before traveling to holiday festivities or seasonal vacations, make sure you plan for a sober designated driver before enjoying an alcoholic beverage. This holiday season, and every day, remember: *Buzzed Driving Is Drunk Driving*.

“We want our community to enjoy a safe and happy holiday season. With more drivers on the roads during this busy time of year, it’s more important than ever for us to stress the importance of safe driving habits,” said **Officer Charles Carlin**. “We know everyone is rushing around, finishing those last-minute errands and attending various holiday parties (Keeping social distancing practices). But before you ever head out to the festivities, make sure you plan a sober ride home, because driving drunk should never be an option. Help us spread the message: Even one drink is one drink too many if you’re the driver. *Buzzed Driving Is Drunk Driving*.”

According to NHTSA, 10,511 people were killed in drunk-driving crashes in 2018. On average, more than 10,000 people were killed each year from 2014 to 2018 — one person was killed in a drunk-driving crash every 50 minutes in 2018. This is why Silverton Police Department is working with NHTSA to remind drivers that drunk driving is not only illegal, it is a matter of life and death. As you head out to the holiday festivities and office parties, help us spread the word: *Buzzed Driving Is Drunk Driving*.

This holiday season, Silverton Police Department and NHTSA urge drivers to designate a sober driver before heading out for the evening. If you plan on drinking, plan on not driving. Doing so could change your life, not to mention the lives of your passengers, of pedestrians, or of other drivers and passengers nearby.

If you’re the designated driver, make sure you keep that promise of safety to yourself and your passengers. Stay hydrated with water and other non-alcoholic beverages. Support other



designated drivers, too. It can be a long night, but people are counting on you, not to mention the other drivers, passengers, and pedestrians on the streets. Take the role of designated driver seriously – people are relying on you.

Party with a Plan

Before ever heading out, it's vital to plan ahead. Be honest with yourself: You know whether you'll be drinking or not. Follow these ideas to ensure you and your fellow partygoers stay safe.

- If you see a drunk driver on the road, contact the Silverton Police Department.
- Do you have a friend who is about to drink and drive? Take the keys away and make arrangements to get your friend home safely.

