

Press Release



Greene County Public Health
A Safe Communities Grantee of Ohio Department of Public Safety
Ohio State Highway Patrol-Traffic Safety Division
360 Wilson Drive, Xenia, OH 45385



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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NHTSA Reminds Drivers to Plan for a Sober Ride this Fourth of July

XENIA, OH — The U.S. Department of Transportation’s National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the Greene County Safe Communities Coalition, and Greene County Public Health are reminding drivers that drinking and driving is deadly and never an option. Join these agencies in sharing this message for a safe Independence Day celebration: **Buzzed Driving Is Drunk Driving**. Every year, the days around and including the Fourth of July holiday rank as one of the deadliest periods on our nation’s roads. In 2024, there were 579 people killed in traffic crashes during the holiday period. From 2020 to 2024, there were 1,724 driver fatalities of the 2,719 total traffic fatalities. Thirty-eight percent of those drivers were drunk.

“Impaired driving is never acceptable. For some people, even one drink is too many to drive safely. While everyone is making plans with friends and family for Fourth of July festivities, it is crucial to also make plans for a sober ride home and completely rule out drinking and driving,” said Lt. Joseph Weeks, Xenia Post Commander, Ohio State Highway Patrol. “We’re partnering with NHTSA to remind drivers that Buzzed Driving Is Drunk Driving. Celebrating our nation’s independence safely is our biggest responsibility.”

If a driver intends to drink during an Independence Day celebration, they should plan ahead for a safe ride home by arranging a designated driver or calling a taxi or rideshare. They shouldn’t wait until after drinking to plan how to get somewhere. Impairment clouds a person’s judgment and endangers others on the road.

If a driver finds they are unable to drive, they should give their keys to a sober driver so that person can get them home safely. When a friend has been drinking and is considering driving, friends should be proactive — take away the keys and help them get a sober ride home. If anyone spots a drunk driver, contact local law enforcement.

Drive 100% sober, because Buzzed Driving Is Drunk Driving. For more information on impaired driving, visit [NHTSA.gov/ImpairedDriving](https://www.nhtsa.gov/ImpairedDriving). Contact Kaci Warren at kwarren@greenecophoh.gov or call 937-374-5673 if you are interested in learning more about or getting involved with the Greene County Safe Communities Coalition.

For more information about Greene County Public Health, please call 937-374-5600 or visit the website at www.greenecophoh.gov.

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