



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Celebrate Responsibly — Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over

Increased Law Enforcement on Patrol During the Holiday Season

December 15, 2021, Bozeman, Mont. – The holidays have arrived. As you make plans to celebrate with friends and family, also make plans to have a safe ride home by designating a sober driver or using a rideshare service. Don't spend your holidays in jail, or worse, in an ambulance.

Increased patrols in Gallatin County will be out in force in the weeks leading up to Christmas and through the New Year's holiday watching for impaired drivers and educating motorists as part of their commitment to keeping Montana roads safe for everyone.

"The holidays are a wonderful time for everyone to enjoy. Unfortunately, they can also be a deadly time for some Montana families," said Gallatin County Sheriff Dan Springer. "It's up to all of us to celebrate responsibly, and that means never driving impaired, always wearing your seat belt, and making sure your friends and family do the same."

In data collected by the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) as of December 13, 2021, there have been 231 lives lost compared to 198 fatalities for this same period in 2020. Of those deaths, 130 have been due to impaired driving, and 118 have been due to improper restraint.

Consequences of drunk driving include a DUI on your record, a revoked driver's license, mandatory classes, possible jail time, probation, and up to \$10,000 in fines. Report suspected impaired drivers by dialing 911, and always wear your seat belt, as it continues to be the best defense against impaired drivers.

This is a Vision Zero message from the Montana Department of Transportation. This and other enforcement and educational campaigns are strategies to reach Vision Zero – zero deaths and zero serious injuries on Montana roadways. For more information about Vision Zero, contact Janet Kenny, Montana Department of Transportation, 406-444-7417 or jakenny@mt.gov.

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