



Buzzed Driving is Drunk

Driving This Holiday Season

The holiday season can be one of the deadliest and most dangerous times of the year due to an increase in impaired driving. Nationally, in December of 2006, 1,076 people were killed in traffic crashes that involved at least one driver or motorcyclists with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .08 or higher. In Montana, in December 2006, there were 216 crashes, 134 occupants injured, and 8 fatalities.

That's why Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) is joining with national, state and local highway safety officials to remind everyone who will be celebrating during the Holidays that Buzzed Driving is Drunk Driving and to never forget to plan a safe way home before the festivities begin.

The consumption of alcohol, drugs and driving just don't mix. Whether you've had way too many or just one too many, it's not worth the risk of killing yourself or someone else. Don't ever get behind a wheel of a vehicle when you are impaired.

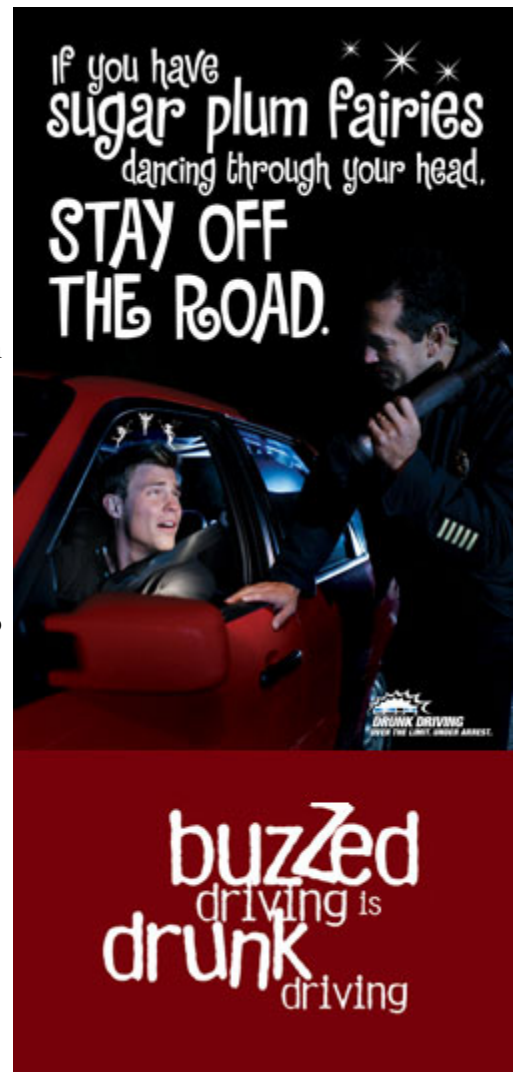
Following these easy steps, a driver can enjoy a safe and festive holiday without jeopardizing their life and the lives of the others:

- Plan a safe way home before the festivities begin;
- Before drinking, please designate a sober driver and give that person your keys;
- If you're impaired, use a taxi, call a sober friend or family member, or use public transportation so you are sure to get home safely;
- Use your community's Sober Rides program [insert your local Sober Rides specifics here];
- If you happen to see a drunk driver on the road, don't hesitate to contact your local law enforcement;

Remember, if you know someone who is about to drive or ride while impaired, take their keys and help them make other arrangements to get to where they are going safely.

Saving lives on our roads is a top priority and we need everyone's help to do it. This holiday season; don't let your year end in an arrest—or even worse, death. Make smart decisions. Plan ahead, so you can assure a safe way home.

For more information, please visit www.stopimpaireddriving.org.



Speeding Drivers

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) considers a crash to be speeding-related if the driver was charged with a speeding-related offense or if an officer indicated that racing, driving too fast for conditions, or exceeding the posted speed limit was a contributing factor in the crash.

Speeding is one of the most prevalent factors contributing to traffic crashes. The economic cost to society of speeding-related crashes is estimated by NHTSA to be \$40.4 billion per year. In 2005, speeding was a contributing factor in 30 percent of all fatal crashes, and 13,113 lives were lost in speeding-related crashes.

For drivers involved in fatal crashes, young males are the most likely to be speeding. With increase in driver age, the proportion of all crashes that are speeding-related decreases. In 2005, 38 percent of the 15- to 20-yearold male drivers who were involved in fatal crashes were speeding at the time of the crash.

In 2005, 86 percent of speeding-related fatalities occurred on roads that were not Interstate highways.

Alcohol and speeding are clearly a deadly combination. Speeding involvement is prevalent for drivers involved in alcohol-related crashes. In 2005, 40 percent of the drivers with BAC levels of .08 g/dL or higher who were involved in fatal crashes were speeding, compared with only 14 percent of the drivers with BAC levels of .00 (i.e., no alcohol) involved in fatal crashes.

(Source: NHTSA Traffic Safety Facts, 2005 Data)

For more information, visit www.nhtsa.gov



Car Seat Check Up Events and Fitting Stations



The following car seat check up events are available for families and caregivers:

12/13, 1/10, 2/14, 3/13, 4/10, 5/8

Clinics will be held on the above dates at Bozeman Fire Station 1, 34 North Rouse from 10 am—2 pm. Please call Stacy for more information.

A special thank you to all of our CPS Technicians. Your dedication to the safety of the children in our community is truly appreciated. Thank you for your continued support of child passenger safety in the community!



If you are unable to attend a check up event, you may call the following certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians for individual appointments*:

Jason Wheeler @ Central Valley Fire in Belgrade, 388-4480

Davey Haglund @ Starting Small Pre-school in Belgrade, 388-9213

Jessi Malcolm @ Building Blocks Pre-school in Livingston, 222-7059

Scott Mueller @ Bozeman Fire Department, Station 1, 582-2350

Stacy Wesen @ Child Care Connections in Bozeman, 587-7786

Pat McLaughlin @ Montana Highway Patrol, 388-3190

***Please note that due to the nature of our schedules, we are unable to accommodate parents & caregivers without an appointment. Thank you for your understanding.**



Montana Buckle Up Laws

If a child under 6 years of age and weighing less than 60 pounds is a passenger in a motor vehicle, that motor vehicle must be equipped with one child safety restraint for each child in the vehicle and each child must be properly restrained.

All other occupants must be properly buckled up in a safety belt.

10 Ways to Say, “I Love You” To Help Keep Your Child Safe

1. The number one action we can each take so that any child of ours will not become a traffic incident victim on neighborhood streets is to simply say, and enforce, **no playing in the street**. Set limits for your child. Make sure they have safe places to play. Do not let them play in the street.
2. Know where your child is. Be outside watching younger children – 7 and under. Know who they are with as well as where they are. Dare to Care!
3. Always make sure kids are buckled up. Remember, show your care for others by wearing your seat belt and expecting others to do the same. Do the right thing. **SEAT BELTS – FASTENATING!®**
4. Make sure your young child is in an approved safety seat or booster seat. Be sure the seat is properly installed and that your child is safely buckled in. For more information visit <http://www.safekids.org/>.
5. Cross the street with your child until the age of 10. (Children’s hearing is not fully developed until then, so they may not hear or notice oncoming traffic.)

6. Teach your child to cross the street correctly. Always use the nearest crosswalk when available. And remember, **STOP! TAKE 3 TO SEE®**

This means:

- A. Stop completely at curbside
- B. Look left, look right, look left again (and listen, too)
- C. Make sure the road is clear before crossing.



This is also the way for we adults to obey stop signs.

In addition, teach your children to follow these same steps when approaching a driveway or intersection. Teach them to be aware that a car may be backing out or that a car may be approaching an intersection from any direction.

STOP! TAKE 3 TO SEE®

7. Expect your child to wear the proper helmet and pads when riding a bike, scooter, skateboard, or using skates. Helmets should exceed safety standards. Look for an ASTM, Snell, ANSI or CPSC certification sticker. A simple rule for parenting – NO HELMET (or elbow, wrist, and kneepads for skateboards, skates, and scooters) NO WHEELS! Enforce this rule at all times to help your child learn good safety habits.

8. Make sure your child checks in with you on a regular basis (every hour or so) when at a friend’s house. This is important for children of all ages (teenagers, too!).

9. Know the parents of all children in your neighborhood. Support each other in helping to keep all kids safe – in yards, homes, cars, and on bikes, scooters, and skates.

10. Make sure you follow the rules of the road. Buckle up! Drive no faster than the speed limit –slower if needed. Allow one vehicle length for each 10mph between you and the car in front of you (30 mph is 3 lengths, 50 is 5) Pay attention to stop signs and traffic signals. Remember,

Bonus Tip!

Never leave a child unattended in a motor vehicle - whether the engine is running or not! Not only could a child be kidnapped, but s/he could also accidentally trip an automatic window switch. In dozens of instances each year, this results in the strangulation death of a child.

For more information, visit www.keepkidsalivedrive25.org

(Source: www.keepkidsalivedrive25.org/parenttips)



**GALLATIN COUNTY
SAFE KIDS SAFE COMMUNITIES**

Lead Agency
Child Care Connections
317 East Mendenhall, Suite C
Bozeman, MT 59715
(406)587-7786
Fax 587-1682

**Stacy Wesen
SKSC Coordinator**

We're on the web
www.childcareconnections.info

Gallatin County Safe Kids Safe Communities is one of more than 300 grass-roots coalitions in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico that bring together health and safety experts, educators, corporations, foundations, governments and volunteers to educate and protect families. Gallatin County SKSC is a member of Safe Kids Worldwide, a global network of organizations dedicated to preventing accidental injury.



Safe Kids Worldwide
1301 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Suite 1000
Washington, DC 20004
Tel 202-662-0600
Fax 202-393-2072
www.safekids.org

Gallatin County Safe Kids Safe Communities Partners

Adolescent Resource Center
American Medical Response
Big Sky Fire Department
Bozeman Deaconess Hospital
Bozeman Fire Department
Bozeman Police Department
Bozeman Public Schools
Central Valley Fire District
Clear Channel Communications
Color World Printers
Davey Haglund, Belgrade
Gallatin City-County Health Dept.
Gallatin Community Clinic

Gallatin County DUI Task Force
Gallatin County Sheriff's Dept.
Jessi Malcolm, Livingston
K-mart of Bozeman
Montana Highway Patrol
MSU Police
MSU Native American Studies
Ressler Chevrolet
The Billion Auto Group
Bozeman Public Schools

SKSC Advisory Committee:
Jim McNichols, AMR
Scott Mueller, Bozeman Fire
Trent Schumacher, Bozeman Police
Sylvia Drain, Gap West Broadcasting
Shanda Smith, Gallatin City-County Health Dept.
Buck Taylor, Gallatin Community Clinic
Jenna Caplette, Gallatin County DUI Task Force
Paul Griffin, Gallatin County Sheriff's Department
Becky Johnson, Adolescent Resource Center (Alcohol and Drug Services of Gallatin County)

