



NEWS RELEASE

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Fans can score a touchdown by planning to not drink and drive

Georgia law enforcement officers have game plan ready to take impaired drivers to jail during Super Bowl weekend

(ATLANTA) A Hail Mary touchdown pass will not keep drivers out of jail if they are caught driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs in Georgia.

Football fans planning to include alcohol in their Super Bowl celebration are reminded to include a sober ride with a friend, designated driver or ride-hailing service.

State and local law enforcement officers in Georgia maintain a year-round zero tolerance for drivers whose blood-alcohol concentration level is .08 or higher, and will be taking any drunk or drugged drivers to jail.

"Avid and casual football fans will come together to watch the title game at private parties and at restaurants and bars," Harris Blackwood, Director of the Governor's Office of Highway Safety said. "As you plan what you are going to wear and bring to your get-together during this week, also plan how you are going to get home if you are going to be drinking."

According to data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, alcohol-impaired driving fatalities in Georgia have increased by more than 30 percent from 2014-16 in Georgia, and alcohol is a factor in one out of four traffic deaths in the state.

According to the Georgia Department of Transportation, 10 people died and 939 injured in 2,555 crashes during last year's Super Bowl weekend in Georgia, that ran from Friday, February 3 through Sunday, February 5.

The Georgia State Patrol made 142 DUI arrests across the state during this same time period in 2017.

"Keeping drunk and drugged drivers off the road takes a team effort by making the decision to not get behind the wheel and friends not letting friends get behind the wheel," Director Blackwood said. "Deciding to not drink and drive will save you thousands in fines, legal bills and higher insurance premiums and you won't have to worry about losing your job."

Besides designated drivers, friends and ride-hailing services, drivers can also get a free ride and tow up to 10 miles

during Super Bowl weekend through AAA and Budweiser's Tow-To-Go.

The free tow and rides start Friday, February 2 and end at 6:00 a.m. on Monday, February 5.

For more information about the Governor's Office of Highway Safety, visit gahighwaysafety.org or www.headsUPgeorgia.com. Follow us on Facebook at [facebook.com/gahighwaysafety](https://www.facebook.com/gahighwaysafety) and on Twitter at [@gohsgeorgia](https://twitter.com/gohsgeorgia) for the latest highway safety information.

Media outlets can find video and audio interview segments with Director Blackwood on DUI prevention during Super Bowl weekend at the following link:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/hewzuu6lpdm0ily/Super%20Bowl%2052%20DUI%20prevention.mpg?dl=0>

Cut 1

Director Blackwood: "If somebody is going to be having an event where there is going to be drinking and driving, we want them to leave out the driving part. We want them to be safe. Plan how you are going to get home. Stay where you are at. Get a hotel room. Call a ride service. Whatever you have to do but don't get on the road because our law enforcement officers throughout the state, with the state patrol, local sheriff's deputies and police departments, will be taking this seriously."

Cut 2

"We have had too many instances across the state over the years where there have been crashes of where there have been people charged with driving under the influence on Super Bowl Sunday and takes what should be wonderful day and ruins it. We want people to enjoy the game. If they enjoy an adult beverage while they are watching it, that is fine. If they have had too much to drink, they need to give the keys to somebody else or call a ride sharing service, but don't get behind the wheel."

Cut 3

"You have planned what you are going to have at your party. Plan how you are going to get home. Plan how you can get home safely. Either with a ride service, riding with a friend, designating a driver or staying where you are."