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**Drive Merry, Bright, and Sober This Holiday Season:**

**Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over**

The holiday season is known for being merry and bright, but it is also known for being the deadliest

season when it comes to impaired driving. Iowa Law Enforcement across the state are partnering with

the U.S. Department of Transportation’s National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)

and the Iowa Governor’s Traffic Safety Bureau (GTSB) this holiday season to remove impaired drivers

from the roads and help save lives. Motorists will see more law enforcement on Iowa’s roadways from

December 16, 2022 to January 2, 2023.

Sadly, the statistics prove that we have a lot of work to do to put an end to drunk driving. According to

NHTSA, 11,654 people were killed in drunk-driving crashes in 2020, accounting for nearly one-third

of traffic crash fatalities. On average, more than 10,000 people were killed each year from 2016 to

2020 — one person was killed in a drunk-driving crash every 45 minutes in 2020. This is why

Governor’s Traffic Safety Bureau, NHTSA and law enforcement are working 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, remember: Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over.

Always remember to plan ahead if you will be celebrating with an impairing substance. If you plan to

indulge, plan for a sober driver to take you home. Call a taxi, friend or a rideshare service! Is it your

turn to be the designated driver? Take the role seriously and do not partake in alcohol or any other

drugs.

GTSB Director Brett Tjepkes said, “It’s so important drivers act responsibly, and that includes obeying

all traffic laws and refraining from driving impaired. Everyone who drives needs to be accountable

and keep everyone safe. The holidays are a special time of year for all to gather and celebrate. Help us

end this senseless behavior and don’t be the reason someone doesn’t get home this holiday season!”