

Super Bowl Sunday safety message

Packer backers urged to not let their fellow fans drive while impaired

The Green Bay Packers are poised to hoist the Lombardi Trophy as the NFL champions on Feb. 6. But are Packers fans prepared to make it home safely after hoisting a few alcoholic beverages on Super Bowl Sunday?

The sobering fact is that in about the same amount of time as it takes to conclude the first half of the game, someone likely will be injured or killed in an alcohol-related traffic crash in Wisconsin.

“On average, a person is killed or injured in an alcohol-related crash every two hours in Wisconsin,” says State Patrol Maj. Dan Lonsdorf of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) Bureau of Transportation Safety. “On Super Bowl Sunday, Packer fans all over the state will be drinking at bars and parties before, during and after the game. That’s why we are urging Packer fans to not let their fellow fans drive drunk. The key is to plan ahead.”

For a safe and fun Super Bowl celebration, WisDOT and the State Patrol offer the following life-saving advice:

- If you’re hosting a party, serve lots of food and have non-alcoholic beverages available. Take care of your guests, and don’t let them drive if they’re impaired.
- Don’t serve any amount of alcohol to anyone under the age of 21. Wisconsin’s Absolute Sobriety Law prohibits drivers under age 21 from having any alcohol in their system while behind the wheel.
- Pace your consumption of alcohol, and don’t drink on an empty stomach.
- If you’re feeling buzzed, you’re probably over the limit and risk being arrested for operating while intoxicated if you drive.
- Bars and restaurants participating in the Safe Ride Program can provide a ride home for patrons. Visit <http://www.tlw.org/public/saferide.shtml> for more information.
- Above all, plan ahead and designate a sober driver.

“Our advice is ‘designate before you celebrate.’ We don’t want your enjoyment of a Packer victory to be ruined by a drunken driving arrest, or even worse, a crash that causes serious injuries or death,” says Lonsdorf. “If everyone will take responsibility for driving sober on Super Bowl Sunday and throughout the year, we can make progress toward the goal of reducing the number of preventable traffic deaths to *Zero in Wisconsin.*”