# Consumer Advisory: NHTSA Urges Motorists to Avoid Drinking and Driving on Super Bowl Sunday

WASHINGTON, D.C. – As Super Bowl Sunday approaches and excitement swells for the kickoff to the big game, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration advises football fans to make the safe and responsible decision to avoid driving after having too much to drink. According to agency statistics, 10,228 people were killed in drunk-driving crashes in 2010. These drunk-driving fatalities accounted for 31 percent of the total motor vehicle traffic fatalities in the United States. In addition, alcohol impairment among drivers involved in fatal crashes was almost twice as high during the weekend (31%) than during weekdays (16%) and four times higher at night (37%) than during the day (9%).\*

NHTSA reminds everyone that *Fans Don’t Let Fans Drive Drunk*. Before choosing to drink, choose your team’s MVP – a sober designated driver – whether you’re attending the game or watching it at a sports bar or Super Bowl party. NHTSA offers these additional safety tips:

**If you’re attending a Super Bowl party or watching the game at a sports bar or restaurant:**

* Designate your sober driver or have an alternate transportation plan before the party begins.
* Avoid drinking too much alcohol too fast. Pace yourself. Eat plenty of food, take breaks, and alternate with non-alcoholic drinks.
* If you don’t have a designated driver, ask a sober friend for a ride home; call a cab, friend, or family member to come and get you; or just stay where you are and don’t drive until you are sober.
* Use your community’s sober ride program.
* Never let friends drive drunk. Arrange a safe way for them to get home.
* Always buckle up. It’s still your best defense against other drunk drivers.

**If you’re hosting a Super Bowl party:**

* Make sure all of your guests designate their sober drivers in advance, or help arrange ride-sharing with sober drivers.
* Serve plenty of food and non-alcoholic beverages at the party.
* Host your party just like they do at the stadium. Stop serving alcohol at the end of the third quarter of the game. The fourth quarter is perfect for serving coffee and dessert.
* Keep the phone numbers of local cab companies on hand and take the keys away from anyone who is thinking of driving drunk.
* Remember, you can be held liable and prosecuted if someone you served ends up in a drunk-driving crash.
* If an underage person drinks and drives, the parent may be legally liable for any damage, injury or death caused by the underage driver.
* Likewise, parents or other adults who provide alcohol to, or host a party where alcohol is available to, those under age 21 could face jail time.

For more information, please visit [TrafficSafetyMarketing.gov](http://www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov).

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\*Note: Daytime – 6 a.m. to 5:59 p.m.; Nighttime – 6 p.m. to 5:59 a.m.;

Weekday – Monday 6 a.m. to Friday 5:59 p.m.; Weekend – Friday 6 p.m. to Monday 5:59 a.m.

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