FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: [Date]

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## Make it to the Thanksgiving Table Safe and Sober

**[City, State]**  — During the Thanksgiving holiday, the U.S. Department of Transportation’s National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reminds drivers that *Buzzed Driving Is Drunk Driving*. Drinking and driving is a deadly choice; drivers should always commit to sober driving or arrange for a sober ride. Plans for a sober ride will help get everyone to the Thanksgiving table — and that’s something to be thankful for.

Unfortunately, drunk driving has left a tragic imprint on thousands of families during the Thanksgiving season. According to NHTSA, 174 people died in drunk-driving crashes, in which one or more drivers had a blood alcohol level of .08 or higher, during the 2023 Thanksgiving holiday (6 p.m. Wednesday – 5:59 a.m. Monday). Drivers ages 21-34 (37%) had the highest rate of involvement in fatal drunk-driving crashes on Thanksgiving 2023. From 2019-2023, the death toll in drunk-driving crashes during Thanksgiving festivities was 868, representing more than one-third (35%) of all fatalities in traffic crashes for that period.

“Driving under the influence of alcohol is never an option,” said [**Local Official].** “Even one drink can be enough to impair a person’s judgment and driving ability. Having a plan in place for safe transportation before having the first drink is the responsible way to avoid the dangers of impaired driving this Thanksgiving. Drivers can keep themselves, their passengers, and other families safe on the road by recognizing that *Buzzed Driving is Drunk Driving* and by making plans to drive sober or get a sober ride home.”

Drivers should be safe on Thanksgiving by planning ahead if they intend to drink. They shouldn’t wait until after drinking to plan how to get somewhere. Impairment clouds a person’s judgment. Drivers should secure a designated sober driver or call a taxi or rideshare for a sober ride home.

If a driver finds they are unable to drive, they should give their keys to a sober driver so that person can get them home safely. When a friend has been drinking and is considering driving, friends should be proactive — take away the keys and help them get a sober ride home. If anyone spots a drunk driver, contact local law enforcement.

For more information on impaired driving, visit [www.nhtsa.gov/risky-driving/drunk-driving](https://www.nhtsa.gov/risky-driving/drunk-driving).

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