

# PRESS RELEASE

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## **A Little Holiday Cheer Can Go A Long Way on Our Roads This Holiday Season *Remember: Buzzed Driving is Drunk Driving***

**Jackson, MI** – As party-goers celebrate the holidays with friends and family, the Jackson Traffic Safety Commission and Jackson County Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition remind everyone to keep the party off the road. Remember, *Buzzed Driving is Drunk Driving*.

"After hearing about the dangers of drinking and driving time after time, most people have gotten the message if they're planning on drinking, they should always plan a safe way home," said Beverly Ward, Director of the Jackson Traffic Safety Program. "But sadly, millions of Americans still think they are invincible and regularly choose to get behind the wheel after having a few drinks." The holiday season can be one of the deadliest and most dangerous times on American roadways due to drunk driving. Remember, whether you've had way too many or one too many, it's not worth the risk of arrest or worse, death.

Jackson County law enforcement will be participating in *special impaired driving enforcement from December 17, 2010 through January 2, 2011* in an effort to make Jackson County roadways safer for our community.

Following a few simple tips will provide a safe holiday season for you, your family and friends. Plan a safe way home before festivities begin such as:

Selecting a designated sober driver

If impaired, use a taxi, call a sober friend or family member or use public transportation

Use the community New Year's Eve Dial-a-Ride program which is available to County residents on a first come, first serve basis. The program is available on New Year's Eve by calling (517) 788-8410

Contact law enforcement if you see a drunk driver on the road

If you are hosting a holiday party this season, you can help by controlling access to alcohol supplied; providing guests alternative non-alcoholic drinks; having plenty of appetizers, snacks and other food available; by making sure no one under 21 is permitted to drink alcohol; and by making sure that any impaired guest does not drive.

The Jackson Traffic Safety Commission and the Jackson County Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition want everyone to have a safe and enjoyable holiday season.

**Please drive safely, always wear your seat belt, do not allow anyone under 21 to drink and DO NOT DRINK AND DRIVE.**

### **More information about:**

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Jackson County Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition and its activities, please contact Kelsey Haynes at (517) 796-5133 or via email at [khaynes@uwjackson.org](mailto:khaynes@uwjackson.org)

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