

Drivers should plan safe rides this holiday season

To help protect our new Kentucky home and keep roadways safe this holiday season, law enforcement across the state is joining Team Kentucky in supporting the nationwide "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" campaign from Dec. 11, 2024, through Jan. 1, 2025.

To raise awareness and kick off the campaign, local highway officials joined together for a news conference today at the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC).

"With the holiday season here, we want to remind all Kentuckians to celebrate responsibly," said Bill Bell, executive director of the KYTC Office of Highway Safety. "Every crash caused by impaired driving is entirely preventable. Our message is straightforward: Plan ahead for a sober ride so your family starts the new year with happiness, not heartache."

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), impaired driving-related crashes tend to increase during the holidays.

To prevent impaired driving-related tragedies this holiday season, KYTC

recommends the following:

Before festivities begin, plan a way to safely get home at the end of the night;

If impaired, use a ride-sharing company or taxi, call a sober friend or family member or use public transportation;

If you see an impaired driver, safely pull over and contact law enforcement. You may dial the KSP toll-free line directly at 800-222-5555 or call 911;

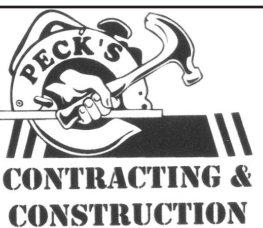
If you know people who are about to drive or ride while impaired, take their keys and help them make other arrangements to get to their destination; and

Wear a seat belt! It is not only the law, but also the best defense against an impaired driver. Buckling up helps prevent injury and death if involved in a crash.

The "Drive Sober" campaign is funded by NHTSA and distributed to law enforcement agencies through each state's highway safety office.

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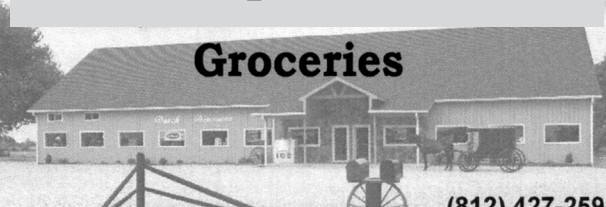
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Waiting for the parade

A large crowd gathered in front of the Courthouse, Saturday night, to watch the Light Up Parade go through town. The parade, which was sponsored by Gallatin County Farm Bureau Insurance, was the highlight of the Christmas on the Square holiday celebration. Photo by Kelley Warnick

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