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THIS FOURTH OF JULY, 'DRIVE SOBER OR GET PULLED OVER'

The Fourth of July is a favorite holiday for many Americans. Families and friends gather to celebrate our country with food, parades, parties and fireworks. For many people, the celebration includes alcohol, but the holiday can quickly go from festive to fatal when people choose to drive after drinking.

According to the most recent statistics (2012), 179 people were killed in the U.S. over the 4th of July holiday (July 3 – July 5). To crack down on drunk driving this Fourth of July, law enforcement in Walla Walla, Garfield and Asotin Counties will be out in full force, aggressively targeting those who put lives in danger. “Officers will be ramping up their enforcement to make our roads safer this Fourth of July holiday weekend”, said Chief Scott Bieber of the Walla Walla Police Department. “For everyone’s sake, don’t drink and drive, or you will be arrested. The ‘Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over’ campaign means zero tolerance for drunk driving – no excuses”.

Drunk driving is involved in one-third of all traffic fatalities on our nation’s roadways. This percentage jumps to 44% during the 4th of July holiday.

“This Fourth of July holiday, you can show your patriotism by helping to make Walla Walla and our neighboring counties safer for everyone” said Chief Bieber. “Remember, to Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over. It’s as simple as that”. Law enforcement is not messing around this Independence Day: if you’re caught driving drunk, you will be arrested. And keep in mind that aside from putting your life and the lives of others at risk, driving impaired can also lead to serious consequences. A DUI arrest can mean time in jail, loss of your license and steep financial expenses.

Nancy Walters of the Walla Walla County Traffic Safety Task Force recommends these simple tips to prevent drunk driving:

- Plan a safe way home before the fun begins
- Before drinking, designate a sober driver
- If you’re impaired, use a taxi, call a sober friend or family member or use public transportation
- If you happen to see a drunk driver on the road, don’t hesitate to contact local law enforcement
- If you know someone who is about to drive while impaired, take their keys and help them make other arrangement to get where they are going safely