



## NEWS RELEASE

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### POLICE CRACK DOWN ON DRUNK DRIVING FOR THE HOLIDAYS “DRIVE SOBER OR GET PULLED OVER”

[**Temple Terrace, Florida, December 12, 2017**] - This holiday season, the Temple Terrace Police Department will work around the clock to keep motorists safe.

Starting December 13, and continuing through December 31, the department is partnering with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in a special year-end *Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over* enforcement campaign. The focus of the campaign is to keep drunk drivers off the road and spread the word about the dangers of drinking and driving.

“Drivers will notice an increase in the number of officers watching closely for anyone who is driving impaired,” said Captain H. Michael Lowell. “It is vital that we keep our roads and our travelers safe, not just during the holiday season, but every day. With extra travelers on the road, combined with holiday party activities, we will likely see an uptick in impaired driving. We’ll be arresting anyone found to be in violation of this life-saving law.”

The holidays are a special time in America, full of excitement and endless festivities. Oftentimes, these celebrations bring higher numbers of impaired drivers to the roads. Drunk driving can have deadly and devastating consequences. In 2016, 37,461 people were killed in motor vehicle traffic crashes nationally, and 28 percent (10,497) died in crashes where a driver had a blood alcohol concentration over the limit of .08.

In fact, from 2012 - 2016, 14,472 people lost their lives in motor vehicle traffic crashes during the month of December, and twenty-eight percent (3,995) died in crashes that involved a driver with a blood alcohol concentration of .08 or higher.

“This should be a time of merrymaking, a time for friends and families to come together for endless laughs, good food, and happy memories,” said Lowell. “We are committed to doing whatever it takes to help save lives and keep drunk drivers off the road. Choosing to drink and drive is a selfish choice; one that can result harsh, deadly consequences.”

Drunk driving offenders often serve jail time, lose their driver’s licenses, pay higher insurance rates and dozens of other unanticipated expenses ranging from attorney fees, court costs, car towing and repairs, and lost wages due to time off from work. **The ultimate cost of drunk driving is a traffic crash that injures or kills.**

**Tips to stay safe on the road this holiday season:**

- Remember, it is never okay to drive drunk. Even if you've only had one alcoholic beverage, designate a sober driver or have another plan to get home safely.
- Download NHTSA's SaferRide mobile app, available on Google Play for Android devices and Apple's iTunes Store for iOS devices. SaferRide allows users to call a taxi or a predetermined friend, and identifies the user's location so he or she can be picked up safely.
- Use a taxi or ride sharing service.
- If you see a drunk driver, call the police immediately.
- Have a friend who is about to drink and drive? Avoid tragedy. Take the keys and make arrangements to get your friend home safely.

This holiday season, the Temple Terrace Police Department will be watching.  
For more information, please contact Captain H. Michael Lowell at 813.506.6500.

*Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over.*

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