

Press Release



Keep our Roads safe this Holiday Season

Apache Junction, Arizona, December 18, 2014 – December is Impaired Driving Prevention Month and as part of the Arizona Governor’s Office of Highway Safety (AzGOHS) DUI Taskforce the Apache Junction Police Department has been working vigilantly in keeping impaired drivers off our roads. The AJPD continues to support our local DUI task force and since October over 52 suspected DUI drivers have been removed from driving on our roadways while under the influence (DUI).

There is a cost to drunk driving; financial, legal and in worst cases lives lost. By removing impaired drivers from the roads money and lives are being saved. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) the estimated cost per injured survivor of an alcohol related crash averages \$99,000: \$49,000 in monetary costs and \$50,000 in quality of life losses. The average alcohol related fatality costs \$3.5 million: \$1.1 million in monetary costs and \$2.4 in quality of life losses.

Everyone is impacted in some way by impaired drivers so it is essential we all do our part to prevent impaired driving. Listed below are 10 tips to prevent driving while intoxicated or being under the influence:

1. Select a Reliable Designated Driver
2. Use Public Transportation
3. Book a Hotel or Sleep Over
4. Hide or Take a Person’s Keys
5. Alternative Drinks: It is important to have a host of drink alternatives like water, soda and juice on hand. This ensures that designated drivers have something to sup on, and it helps cancel out all of the alcohol.
6. Include Food: This helps guests better absorb alcohol. It is smart to include not just snacks but filling foods like bread. This ensures that people do not get trashed and then try to drive home.
7. Cut Off the Alcohol Early On: Before the party closes, it is important for hosts to cut off the keg or alcohol supply. This ensures that guests do not get drunk and then try to drive. It is smart to give guests a couple of hours without alcohol so that they do not attempt to drink and drive.
8. Pay Attention to Guests: Responsible hosts will pay attention to who is and is not drunk. If someone has driven to the event and is now drinking, hosts should arrange transportation home or demand that they stay the night so everyone can have breakfast together. This is an easy way to keep drunk drivers off of the road.
9. Call Loved Ones: If a guest is too drunk to drive, it is important to call mutual friends, family members or a significant other to see if they will come and pick up the person. If a party host does this, then the loved one can show up. Someone might protest at first but having the loved one show up curbs too much resistance.

10. Start Early: It is important to start events early so that people can enjoy a drink or two without danger of getting drunk and then driving and getting a DUI/DWI. Party hosts should keep this in mind. When individuals go out for birthday events or happy hour, starting early makes it easier to get home. Public transportation is still up and running, people are awake and there is more time to get sober.

Taking the necessary precautions protects people from DUI/DWIs. No one wants to get on the road and make a life-changing mistake. Designated drivers, public transportation, and smart choices ensure that people do not get on the road after drinking. It is always better to be safe rather than sorry so that people are not hurt, cars are not totaled and so people can avoid jail time, job loss and making a mistake they can't take back. ("10 Tips," 2014- retrieved from www.sr22insurance.net/top-10-tips-on-preventing-duidwi/)

Be safe and have a happy holiday season!

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