



Oregon Department of Transportation

# NEWS RELEASE

**Region 4** Wasco, Sherman, Gilliam, Jefferson, Wheeler,  
Deschutes, Crook, Klamath and Lake Counties

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For More Information: Peter Murphy, Public Information Officer  
541-388-6224

## *Buzzed Driving is Drunk Driving*

### **This Holiday Season**

Bend, OR — The holiday season can be one of the deadliest and most dangerous times of the year due to an increase in impaired driving. In December of 2006, 1,076 people were killed in traffic crashes that involved at least one driver or motorcyclist with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .08 or higher in the United States.

That's why your local ODOT Transportation Safety Division Office is joining with National, State and local highway safety officials to remind everyone who will be celebrating during the Holidays that *Buzzed Driving is Drunk Driving* and to never forget to plan a safe way home before the festivities begin.

"The consumption of alcohol, drugs and driving just don't mix," said Debbie Miller, ODOT Transportation Safety Division. "Whether you've had way too many or just one too many, it's not worth the risk of killing yourself or someone else. Don't ever get behind a wheel of a vehicle when you are impaired."

Following these easy steps, a driver can enjoy a safe and festive holiday without jeopardizing their life and the lives of the others who may be on the road:

- Plan a safe way home before the festivities begin;
- Before drinking, please designate a sober driver and give that person your keys;

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For updated information on highway work and current travel information throughout Oregon, visit [www.tripcheck.com](http://www.tripcheck.com) or call the Oregon road report at 511 or 1-800-977-6368  
Visit the ODOT News Media Center at [www.oregon.gov/ODOT/COMM](http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/COMM)

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- If you're impaired, use a taxi, call a sober friend or family member, or use public transportation so you are sure to get home safely;
- If you happen to see a drunk driver on the road, don't hesitate to contact your local law enforcement;
- And remember, if you know someone who is about to drive or ride while impaired, take their keys and help them make other arrangements to get to where they are going safely.

“Saving lives on our roads is a top priority and we need everyone’s help to do it,” Debbie Miller, ODOT Transportation Safety Division. “This holiday season; don’t let your year end in an arrest—or even worse, death. Make smart decisions. Plan ahead, so you can assure a safe way home.”

Whether you’ve had way too many or just one too many, it’s not worth the risk.

For more information, please visit [www.StopImpairedDriving.org](http://www.StopImpairedDriving.org).

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