

# Ohio State Highway Patrol

## Monthly Commander's Column



### **Fans Don't Let Fans Drive Drunk**

#### **Make the right play to save your life and others**

In anticipation of Super Bowl Sunday, the Ohio State Highway Patrol is joining forces with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and safety partners all over the state to urge motorists to not get behind the wheel of a car impaired. The nationwide campaign, "Fans Don't Let Fans Drive Drunk," is encouraging motorists to plan ahead, designate a sober driver or to call a taxi to get home safely this Super Bowl Sunday.

Super Bowl Sunday is one of America's biggest and most entertaining national sporting events as friends and families gather to socialize and watch the big game. Yet, it has also become one of the Nation's most dangerous days on the roadways due to impaired driving. The Patrol will be out in full force, working with local law enforcement agencies, to remove impaired drivers from the roadways.

During last year's Super Bowl, the Patrol made 60 OVI-related arrests from Feb. 1, 2009, at 6 a.m. through Feb. 2, 2009 at 6 a.m. During this 24-hour reporting period, four people lost their lives on Ohio's roadways, with one being OVI-related. In addition, 144 motorists were injured, with 19 being OVI-related.

The Patrol is offering the following tips to party-goers and hosts:

If you are hosting a Super Bowl party:

- Remember, you can be held liable and prosecuted if someone you served ends up in an impaired-driving crash.
- Make sure all of your guests designate their sober drivers in advance, or help arrange ride-sharing with other sober drivers.
- Serve lots of food and include lots of non-alcoholic beverages at the party.
- Stop serving alcohol at the end of the third quarter of the game and begin serving coffee and dessert.
- Keep the numbers for local cab companies handy, and take the keys away from anyone who is thinking of driving while impaired.

If you are attending a Super Bowl party or watching at a sports bar or restaurant:

- Designate your sober driver before the party begins and leave your car keys at home.
- Avoid drinking too much alcohol too fast. Pace yourself—eat enough food, take breaks, and alternate with non-alcoholic drinks.
- If you don't have a designated driver, ask a sober friend for a ride home; call a cab, friend, or family member to come and get you.
- Never let a friend get behind the wheel of their vehicle if you think they are about to drive while impaired. Remember, Fans Don't Let Fans Drive Drunk.
- Always buckle up – it's still your best defense against other impaired drivers.

*An internationally accredited agency whose mission is to save lives, investigate crime and enforce the law with compassion and unbiased professionalism.*