

Fans Don't Let Fans Drive Drunk *Designate a Sober Driver this Super Bowl*

The Super Bowl is one of America's most highly anticipated sports events, when friends and family gather in homes, bars, and restaurants to celebrate. As Super Bowl Sunday approaches and football fans across the country prepare for the game, the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service *Watch UR BAC* program is spreading the message to the public about designating a sober driver on Super Bowl Sunday, because *Fans Don't Let Fans Drive Drunk*.

Before drinking begins, choose your MVP--a sober designated driver. Avoid the unsportsmanlike conduct of driving drunk by handing off your keys so that the Super Bowl watching party stays safe. Drunk driving is always preventable, and driving drunk could result in injuring or killing yourself or someone else. Motorists can expect Emory and Rains County law enforcement agencies to have a visible presence and to stop anyone who makes the dangerous decision to drink and drive.

According to the Texas Department of Transportation, 1,099 people were killed in drunk-driving crashes in 2012, accounting for 32.3 percent of the total motor vehicle traffic fatalities in Texas. Super Bowl Sunday is a risky day for drunk-driving crashes.

The *Watch UR BAC* program advises that if you're attending a Super Bowl party or watching the game at a sports bar or restaurant:

- Designate your sober driver, or plan another way to get home safely before the party begins.
- If you don't have a designated driver, then ask a sober friend for a ride home; call a cab, friend, or family member to come and get you; or just stay for the night.
- Never let friends drive if they have had too much to drink.

If you're hosting a Super Bowl party:

- Make sure all your guests designate a sober driver in advance, or arrange for alternate transportation to ensure they get home safely.
- Serve plenty of food and non-alcoholic beverages at the party.
- Host your party just like they do at the stadium. Stop serving alcohol at the end of the third quarter of the game, and begin serving coffee and dessert.
- Keep the phone numbers of local cab companies handy, and take the keys away from anyone who has had too much to drink.
- Remember, you can be held liable and prosecuted if someone you served ends up in a drunk-driving crash.
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Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service's *Watch UR BAC* program is a free, statewide program to promote alcohol awareness, the dangers of impaired driving, and friends watching out for friends.

Contact ldmooney@ag.tamu.edu for booking information.

Educational programs of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information or veteran status.