



Buzzed Driving is
Drunk Driving

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BEWARE THIS HALLOWEEN!
Don't Let Your Good Time Turn Into a Nightmare
Buzzed Driving is Drunk Driving

[Indianapolis, IN.] - More than 40 percent of the fatalities in motor vehicle crashes on Halloween night in 2005 involved a driver or motorcycle operator with a blood alcohol concentration of (BAC) of .08 or higher, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

That is why the Governor's Council on Impaired & Dangerous Driving a division of the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute announced today a strong new push to remind all Halloween partiers that **Buzzed Driving is Drunk Driving** and to always designate a sober driver before the festivities begin.

"Halloween should be a time for scary costumes, trick or treating with the kids and good family fun," said Mike Cunegin, executive director of the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute. "Yet unfortunately, Halloween has also become a very dangerous and deadly night of the year due to impaired driving."

In fact, 41 percent of all highway fatalities across the nation from 6 p.m. on Halloween night until 6 a.m. the following morning in 2005 involved a driver or motorcycle operator with an illegal BAC of .08 or higher, which is illegal in every state.

For a safer Halloween weekend, the Governor's Council on Impaired & Dangerous Driving offers these simple tips:

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- Designate a sober driver before going out and give that person your car keys;
- If you are impaired, call a taxi, use mass transit or call a sober friend or family member to help get you home safely;
- Inquire about your community's Sober Rides Programs;
- Promptly report drunk/impaired drivers you notice on the roadways to law enforcement;
- Always buckle up – it is still your best defense against an impaired driver;

And remember, ***Hoosiers Don't Let Hoosiers Drive Drunk***. If you know someone who is about to drive while impaired, take their keys and help them make other arrangements to get to where they are going safely.

Impaired driving is no accident – nor is it a victimless crime. In 2005, nearly 13,000 people died in highway crashes involving a driver or a motorcycle operator with a BAC of .08 or higher, according to NHTSA.

“There is never a reason anyone should ever drive a vehicle or motorcycle impaired,” said Ryan Klitzsch, ICJI Traffic Safety division director. “Not only do you risk killing yourself or someone else, but the trauma and financial costs of a crash or an arrest for drunk driving are significant.”

Indiana State Police Superintendent Paul Whitesell adds, “real-life Halloween nightmares are simple to avoid if you make smart decisions. Never drive drunk. Remember, **Buzzed Driving is Drunk Driving**. Weather you've had one too many or way too many, make sure you don't drive while impaired.”

The Governor's Council on Impaired & Dangerous Driving serves as the public opinion catalyst and the implementing body for statewide action to reduce death and injury on Indiana roadways. The Council provides grant funding, training, coordination and ongoing support to state and local traffic safety advocates.

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