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Game Plan for Super Bowl Sunday: Are You Drinking or Driving?

Fans Don't Let Fans Drive Drunk

The Super Bowl is America's most watched national sporting event. On Sunday, February 1, friends and family will 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 game day, because *Fans Don't Let Fans Drive Drunk*.

"Drunk driving is completely preventable. All it takes is a little planning. Hand off your keys so that the Super Bowl watching party stays safe," said Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service agent . "Motorists can expect in Cameron County law enforcement agencies to be out in large numbers and to stop anyone who makes the dangerous decision to drive impaired."

According to the Texas Department of Transportation, 1,089 people were killed in drunk-driving crashes in 2013, accounting for 32.2 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; or call a cab, friend, or relative to come and get you. If you are at a friend's house, stay 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 have a non-drinking driver to take them home, or arrange for alternate transportation to see that they get home safely.
- Serve plenty of food and non-alcoholic drinks 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.
- 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.