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buzzed driving is drunk driving

PRESS RELEASE

DRIVE SOBER OR GET PULLED OVER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
NOVEMBER 23, 2026

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS – OFFICE OF HIGHWAY SAFETY

2026 BUZZED DRIVING IS DRUNK DRIVING
The Best Thanksgiving Side Is A Sober Ride

TAMUNING, GUAM – This holiday season, the Department of Public Works-Office of Highway Safety (DPW-OHS) together with our Partners for Highway Safety and the *"Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over"* Campaign, would like to kick off the holiday season with this public message. If your Thanksgiving plans include enjoying an alcoholic beverage with your turkey and mashed potatoes, make sure you plan for a sober driver to get you home safely. This Thanksgiving holiday, the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) is teaming up with DPW-Office of Highway Safety to make sure you make it to — and from — the Thanksgiving table. With the holidays kicking off a very merry time of year, drivers are urged to remember that ***Buzzed Driving Is Drunk Driving***.

Unfortunately, drunk driving-related crashes are more likely to occur during the long Thanksgiving weekend. According to Guam statistics, in CY2023, Guam reported 29 traffic fatalities and 3 were alcohol or drug-related. In CY2024, Guam reported 15 traffic fatalities and 8 were alcohol or drug-related. In 2025, Guam reported 21 traffic fatalities, of which 4 were alcohol or drug-related. Although the decrease in alcohol or drug-related crashes and fatalities throughout the years is a triumph, the work is not complete until Guam reaches its goal of "0" fatalities. With Thanksgiving and Christmas right around the corner, safety on the roads is paramount and one should never get behind the wheel while alcohol-impaired.

"Driving under the influence of alcohol is never an option," said DPW Director Vincent P. Arriola. "Even one drink can be enough to impair a person's judgment and driving ability.

Having a plan in place for safe transportation before having the first drink is the responsible way to avoid the dangers of impaired driving this Thanksgiving season." DPW Deputy Directors Linda J. Ibanez and Ernest G. Candoleta Jr. adds, "Drivers can keep themselves, their passengers, and other families safe on the road by recognizing that *Buzzed Driving Is Drunk Driving* and by making plans to drive sober or get a sober ride home." This is why the DPW-Office of Highway Safety and its Partners for Highway Safety are working together with NHTSA to remind drivers that drunk driving is a matter of life and death. Remember: ***Buzzed Driving Is Drunk Driving***.

We encourage everyone to take responsibility for their actions when it comes to alcohol consumption. If you are planning to drink, the best options are to designate a sober driver, take public transportation, or use a ride-sharing service such as Tohge Inc. 671-686-9276 (WARM) / 671-787-9276 and Stroll Intl. (Guam) by downloading the app. If you see a drunk driver on the road, do not hesitate to contact the Guam Police Department (GPD). For more information, please visit NHTSA.gov/DrunkDriving, or contact the DPW-Office of Highway Safety at 671-649-5064.

By working together, we can save lives and help keep Guam's roadways safe. Please join us in sharing the lifesaving message ***Buzzed Driving Is Drunk Driving*** during the holiday weekend. This campaign is part of a nationwide initiative, supported by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), to reduce impaired driving during the holiday season and beyond. As you embark on your holiday festivities, remember: ***Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over, If you Feel Different, You Drive Different, and Drive High, Get a DUI.***

Vincent P. Arriola
Director, Department of Public Works