**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: [Date]**

**CONTACT: [Name, Phone Number, Email Address]**

### NHTSA Reminds Drivers: *Buzzed Driving Is Drunk Driving*

**[City, State]** — As people across the country make plans to kick off Thanksgiving on the night before the holiday, popularly known as Thanksgiving Eve or Drinksgiving, the U.S. Department of Transportation’s National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) reminds drivers that *Buzzed Driving Is Drunk Driving*. Drinking and driving is a deadly choice; drivers should always commit to sober driving or arrange for a safe ride. Even one drink can cloud a person’s judgment and impair their ability to make safe choices.

Drunk driving has tragically become a defining aspect of Thanksgiving Eve, with some people turning it into a night of drinking and driving. From 2018 to 2022 (6 p.m. the Wednesday before Thanksgiving through 5:59 a.m. Thanksgiving morning), 143 drunk drivers were involved in fatal traffic crashes on that night. Of those drivers, 109 were males and 25 were females. Drivers 21-24 (38%) were the age group most likely to be alcohol-impaired drivers in fatal crashes on that same night, followed by drivers ages 25-34 (35%). In 2022 alone, there were 35 drunk drivers involved in fatal traffic crashes on Thanksgiving Eve, with 27 of the drivers being males.

“These tragic events highlight the urgent need for everyone to plan with safety in mind,” said [**Local Law Enforcement Official]. “**When you get on the road, you are pledging to use safe driving practices to keep all road users safe. The night commonly referred to as Drinksgiving is not an exception. Anyone heading out to a bar or party must make a commitment to stay sober for the night if they are driving, or arrange for a sober ride home before they begin to drink alcohol. These steps keep everyone on the road safe, and ensure they have a memorable Thanksgiving holiday season.”

Drivers should be safe on Thanksgiving Eve by planning ahead if they intend to drink. They shouldn’t wait until after drinking to plan how to get somewhere. Impairment clouds a person’s judgment. Drivers should secure a designated sober driver or call a taxi or rideshare for a sober ride home.

If a driver finds they are unable to drive, they should give their keys to a sober driver so that person can get them home safely. When a friend has been drinking and is considering driving, friends should be proactive — take away the keys and help them get a sober ride home. If anyone spots a drunk driver, contact local law enforcement.

Drive 100% sober, because *Buzzed Driving Is Drunk Driving*. For more information on impaired driving, visit [www.nhtsa.gov/risky-driving/drunk-driving](http://www.nhtsa.gov/risky-driving/drunk-driving).

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