



Short Safety Subject

Short Safety Subjects are provided by the Public Safety Business Center, Fort Bragg, NC. Our intent is to provide safety topics for the purpose of increasing safety awareness and improving safety performance. Additional Short Safety Subjects are available on the PSBC Business Management Web Site at:

www.bragg.army.mil/psbc-bm/PubsAndForms/ShortSafetySubjects.htm

**Drinking and driving
can take you
for the ride of
your life!**



DRINKING AND DRIVING

A LETHAL COMBINATION

The holiday season is filled with fun and parties for many of us. Unfortunately, it also brings with it more drunk drivers onto our roadways. Drinking and driving are simply a lethal combination. Never get behind the wheel of a vehicle after consuming alcohol.

Myths and Facts About Alcohol & Driving.

Myth: Coffee can sober up someone who has had too much to drink.

Fact: Only time sobers. It takes about one hour to oxidize each drink.

Myth: Hard liquor is more intoxicating than beer or wine.

Fact: A 12-ounce can of beer, a five-ounce glass of wine, and a 12-ounce wine cooler contain the same amount of alcohol and the same intoxication potential as an ounce- and-a-half of liquor.

Myth: Someone who has had too much to drink will look intoxicated.

Fact: Someone's physical appearance can be misleading. One drink can impair someone's ability to drive. Judgment is the first thing affected when someone has been drinking and important motor skills are next.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

How do I approach one of my guests who has had too much to drink? I mean, I don't want to lose a friend.

The first time is the hardest, but your actions could save your friend's life or that of an innocent victim. Pull your guest aside and politely, but firmly tell them that you cannot let them drive home because you care. Offer to let the guest spend the night, call a cab or ask another, sober guest to drive the intoxicated person home.

How will I be held responsible if one of my guests is involved in a crash?

The laws vary from state to state, but you could be held responsible for the costs associated with the crash including medical bills and property damage and be sued for emotional pain and suffering.

WHAT CAN I DO TO STOP DRUNK DRIVING?

- ◆ Support measures to strengthen drunk driving and victims' rights laws by contacting elected officials.

- ◆ Tie a MADD ribbon to a visible location on your vehicle as a symbol of your commitment to drive safe and sober during the holidays and as a sign for others to do the same.

- ◆ Write letters to the editor of local newspapers expressing your concern over the drunk-driving problem in your community.

- ◆ Get involved - become a volunteer for your local MADD chapter.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I SEE SOMEONE DRIVING DRUNK?

Report drunk drivers immediately to area law enforcement from a car phone or pay phone with the license plate number, description of the vehicle and the direction in which it was traveling.