The July 4th holiday is a favorite time of year for many Americans. Backyard parties, good food, and fireworks. But the celebrating unfortunately turns deadly when people drive after drinking alcohol. We all love to celebrate Independence Day with family and friends, food and fireworks - but all too often the festivities turn tragic on the nation’s roads.

The fact is, this iconic American holiday is also one of the deadliest holidays of the year due to drunk-driving crashes.

Drunk driving is a preventable problem on the Fourth of July each year in the United States.

According to data from NHTSA, during July 4th holidays over the last five years (from 2007 to 2011), 780 people lost their lives in crashes involving drivers with a BAC of .08 or more. These fatalities account for 40% of all motor vehicle traffic fatalities over this same five-year period.

Throughout the region, drivers should expect to see the police out in force, cracking down on drunk driving through increased sobriety checkpoints, roving and saturation patrols, and other enforcement efforts. Unfortunately, these enforcement campaigns are necessary—drunk driving is an epidemic in our nation. In 2012, there were 10,322 people killed in drunk-driving crashes. That’s one third of all traffic fatalities nationwide.

UTSAPD wants you to have a safe and memorable 4th of July.

Reference: www.nhtsa.gov

Have a happy and safe summer from the UTSA Police Department!

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