



PRESS RELEASE

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90 Days of Summer Safety: Drunk Driving
Don't Make an Ambulance Your Designated Driver

June 22, 2009 (Fort Worth, Texas) Every 40 minutes and nearly 40 times a day, someone in the United States dies in an alcohol impaired traffic crash, according to research by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

While impaired driving is a problem throughout the year, MedStar Emergency Medical Services reminds the public this Fourth of July: Don't make an ambulance your designated driver.

"Dallas and Tarrant counties rank in the top three in the state for highest number of annual fatalities related to alcohol," said Mary Kardell, executive director of Mothers Against Drunk Driving North Texas. Dallas County ranked first, Harris County second and Tarrant County third, according to the most recent data available from the NHTSA, Kardell explained.

However, the tragedy from drunk driving can be prevented with a few simple precautions before going out to celebrate:

- Plan a safe way home before the festivities begin;
- Before drinking, designate a sober driver and give that person your keys;
- If you're impaired, use a taxi, call a sober friend or family member, or use public transportation so you are sure to get home safely;
- If you see a drunk driver on the road, contact your local law enforcement;
- And remember, if you know someone who is about to drive or ride while impaired, take their keys and help them make other arrangements to get to where they are going safely. Don't make an ambulance their designated driver.

Driving impaired is not worth the risk. The consequences are serious and real. Not only do you risk killing yourself or someone else, but the trauma and financial costs of a crash or an arrest for driving while impaired can include jail time, the loss of driver's license, higher insurance rates, and dozens of other unanticipated expenses.

90 Days of Summer Safety

From June 15 thru September 7 MedStar EMS encourages the community to enjoy their summer activities safely through **90 Days of Summer Safety**. Each week a new summer-themed safety topic will be highlighted.

About MedStar

MedStar is the exclusive emergency and non-emergency ambulance service provider to 15 Tarrant County cities including Blue Mound, Burleson, Edgecliff Village, Forest Hill, Fort Worth, Haltom City, Haslet, Lakeside, Lake Worth, River Oaks, Saginaw, Samson Park, Westover Hills, Westworth Village, and White Settlement. Established in 1986, MedStar provides advanced life support ambulance service to 421 square miles and more than 860,000 residents in Tarrant County. MedStar responds to about 100,000 emergency calls a year with a fleet of 47 ambulances.

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