



## LOUISIANA HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMISSION NEWS RELEASE

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### **Designated drivers are always on the winning team**

Sunday's Super Bowl LV battle will end with either "The Goat" or "The Kid" hoisting a trophy, but anyone watching the football game on TV can be a winning teammate by being a designated driver for friends who have been drinking.

Super Bowl Sunday traditionally is a big party event that involves alcohol, creating opportunities for sober drivers to be MVP for the day. The Louisiana Highway Safety Commission is sponsoring "Fans Don't Let Fans Drive Drunk," a public awareness campaign to encourage designated drivers and spread the word on social media by using the hashtag #DesignatedDriver.

"Despite the pandemic, we know people will huddle up in homes, restaurants and bars to watch the game on Sunday," LHSC Executive Director Lisa Freeman said. In addition to taking COVID-19 precautions, everyone's game plan also should include a sober designated driver who can safely get friends home."

Those who host a small, socially distanced group for the game should plan to offer snacks and plenty of non-alcoholic beverages. When guests arrive, ask if they have a designated driver or if they plan to be one. If guests have been drinking and don't have a designated driver, help them get home.

"Call a friend, a cab or a ride service to make sure they're safe," Freeman said. "Even if they decide to walk home, find a friend to accompany them."

Freeman added that drugs – even legal prescription drugs – also can impair a driver's ability to safely operate a motor vehicle.

"If you drink or take anything that alters your judgment, senses, alertness or reactions, it's time to call in the designated driver," Freeman said.

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