



**CITY OF MISSOULA
POLICE DEPARTMENT**
Public Information Office
PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release:

Date: August 19, 2019
Contact: *Sergeant Greg Amundsen*
Phone: 406/552-6333
E-Mail: *gamundsen@ci.missoula.mt.us*

Celebrate Labor Day Safely – Don't Drink and Drive

Increased Patrols Across the Missoula area

Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over August 16 through September 2, 2019

August 19, 2019 Missoula, Mt – The summer travel season may be winding down, but that doesn't mean Montana law enforcement is relaxing their efforts to keep everyone safe on our roads this Labor Day weekend. Across Montana, increased patrols are being deployed to crack down on impaired driving. Missoula area law enforcement, along with the Montana Highway Patrol, remind all Montanans to drive sober or get pulled over. The Labor Day weekend should be a time for family and fun, but statistics reveal that for too many people it ends in tragedy. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, there were 376 crash fatalities during the Labor Day holiday in 2017 and 44 percent of those crashes involved drivers who had been drinking.ⁱ In Montana, over the last five years there have been 38 fatalities within the two-week period up to and including Labor Day weekend. Driver's impaired by alcohol were involved in 50 percent of theseⁱⁱ. "Drunk driving is not acceptable – ever," said Sergeant Greg Amundsen of the Missoula Police Department. "Everyone needs to make a commitment to their family, friends, neighbors, and all other Montanans to take their safety seriously and never drive while impaired. It only takes a few minutes to make a plan – if you're going to drink, arrange for a sober ride."

Getting pulled over for impaired driving in Montana has serious consequences, and it will cost you. It can result in:

- Receiving a DUI.
- Having your license revoked.
- Possible jail time.
- Up to \$10,000 in fines.ⁱⁱⁱ

This is a Vision Zero message from the Montana Department of Transportation. This and other enforcement and educational campaigns are strategies to reach Vision Zero – zero deaths and zero serious injuries on Montana roadways. For more information about Vision Zero, contact Janet Kenny, Montana Department of Transportation, 406-444-7417 or jkenny@mt.gov.

###

ⁱ<https://crashstats.nhtsa.dot.gov/#/>

ⁱⁱ MDT Crash Data

ⁱⁱⁱ <http://www.mdt.mt.gov/visionzero/docs/what-a-dui-will-cost-you-brochure.pdf>