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Don't Ring In the New Year Behind Bars

Fort Worth, TX – Don't drink and drive.

That's the message this – and every – holiday season.

"The holidays are meant for celebration, not tragedy," Tarrant County District Attorney Phil Sorrells said. "When you choose to drink and drive, you're putting your life and the lives of others at risk."

"There is no excuse for it – ever."

The holidays are one of the most dangerous times of the year for impaired driving.

Last year, 42 people in Tarrant County were charged with DWI on just two days and nights – December 31, 2024, and January 1, 2025. In all of 2024, 4,956 DWI cases were filed in Tarrant County.

Tarrant County is a "No Refusal" county, meaning if a driver is pulled over and refuses a breath test, law enforcement officers will get a search warrant to draw their blood. It's illegal in Texas for anyone to drive with a blood alcohol content of 0.08 percent or higher.

Driving under the influence is dangerous and illegal, so make sure you plan a safe ride home.

The cost of getting a ride from a ride share service is nothing compared to the cost of a DWI. Court fees, fines, increased insurance rates, and lifelong consequences – it's simply not worth it.

"New Year's Eve is a time for fresh starts, not tragic endings," Sorrells said. "Our prosecutors stand ready to hold impaired drivers accountable, because one reckless choice can permanently change a family's life."

"Let's ring in the New Year safely," he said. "Drive sober. Every time."

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