



## **Cinco de Mayo: Fiesta Time or Jail Time?** *Buzzed Driving Is Drunk Driving*

**The Bridgeport Police Department encourages people to review this notice which was developed by the NHTSA. We endorse the message.**

In the United States, the Cinco de Mayo holiday is full of fiestas and margaritas! If you're the one striking up the mariachi band, remember that at the end of the night, you need to have a safe and sober ride home. During the Cinco de Mayo holiday in 2016 (6 p.m. May 4 to 5:59 a.m. May 6), 257 people lost their lives in motor vehicle crashes. What's even more disturbing is the fact that 20 percent (51) died in drunk-driving crashes. The drivers of approximately half of those vehicles weren't just a little bit drunk – one out of every two of those drivers (53%) had blood alcohol concentrations (BACs) of .15 grams per deciliter (g/dL) or higher –almost two times the legal limit in every state.

In the rush of party preparations and getting dressed up for a night out, it's easy to forget the most important Cinco de Mayo plan of all: designating a sober driver. Some fiesta-goers think they can play it by ear and wait until after the party has started to decide whether they're "okay to drive." By this point, it's too late. Going out for a night of drinking without a plan for getting home safely is a recipe for disaster.

**Remember: *Buzzed Driving Is Drunk Driving***, and when you drive drunk, you run the risk of killing yourself or someone else. You will be looking at jail time, the loss of your driver's license, higher insurance rates, and dozens of other unanticipated expenses ranging from attorney fees, court costs, car or motorcycle towing and repairs, and lost wages due to time off from work. The average DUI costs about \$10,000. Wouldn't you rather pay for a ride home?

Data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) shows that drunk-driving crash fatalities are a disturbing Cinco de Mayo trend. From 2012-2016, almost one-third (28%) of all traffic crash fatalities during the Cinco de Mayo holiday period, on average, were drunk-driving related. To address this concern, **The Bridgeport Police Department reminds partygoers that drunk driving should never be a part of your Cinco de Mayo plans.**

We are here to help save lives in the Borough of Bridgeport, and we want people to understand that drinking a little is the same as drinking a lot when it comes to getting in your car and driving home. You can't, and you shouldn't. **Remember that *Buzzed Driving Is Drunk Driving*.**"

Cinco de Mayo can be a fun and festive time for those who choose to celebrate the right way: with a plan for a sober ride home. If you make your plans when you're sober, before you ever leave your home, you won't make the bad decision of driving when you're drunk. Consider downloading NHTSA's SaferRide app, available on iTunes at <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/saferide/id950774008?mt=8> or through Google Play at <https://play.google.com/store/apps/>



[details?id=com.nhtsa.SaferRide&hl=en](#), and ensuring that you have apps for ride sharing services, or telephone numbers of family, friends, or taxi services to get you home safely.

Drunk driving is claiming too many lives. On average in 2016, someone was killed in a drunk-driving crash every 50 minutes. On Cinco de Mayo weekend, that equaled 51 lives lost in drunk-driving crashes. The family members and friends of those people killed likely wish they could go back to May 5, 2016, and say or do something to prevent the drunk-driving crash that took their loved one. So, before your first margarita, cold beer, or shot of tequila this Cinco de Mayo, make sure you have a designated sober driver or have arranged another safe way home. Decide today that you won't ever drive after drinking. If you know someone who is about to drive drunk, step in and help. Take their keys and help them make arrangements to get home safely.

A final statistic to remember: drunk-driving deaths are 100-percent preventable.

**Remember: *Buzzed Driving Is Drunk Driving.***