The Dodge County Traffic Safety Commission is reminding everyone to drive safe this 4th of July.

Dodge County Traffic Safety Coordinator Joel Kiesow states that Americans love to celebrate the 4th of July with family, friends, food, and fireworks. But all too often the festivities turn tragic on the nation's roads. This iconic American holiday is also one of the deadliest holidays of the year due to drunk-driving crashes.

Over the 4th of July holiday period in 2017 (6 p.m. June 30 to 5:59 a.m. July 5):

* 601 people died in motor vehicle traffic crashes. 39% (237) of those fatalities occurred in alcohol-impaired crashes. This is a 23% increase from 2016, during which 192 people were killed during the same holiday period.
* 60% of those who died in alcohol-impaired crashes were in a crash involving at least one driver or motorcyclist with a BAC of .15 or higher.
* **Wisconsin saw 11 fatalities statewide from June 30 to July 5 in 2018.**