

Dodge County Traffic Safety Commission

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Press Release: Thanksgiving Holiday 2019

**Make it to the table this holiday season**

“Thanksgiving has become one of the deadliest times of the year on America’s roads because “Thanksgiving Eve,” the Wednesday before the holiday, has become one of the year’s biggest drinking days,” states Dodge County Highway Safety Coordinator Joel Kiesow. Whether it’s young people home from college or adults who know they have the next day off from work, Thanksgiving Eve has contributed to a rise in drunken driving deaths around the holiday.

This holiday season is shaping up for hazardous travel conditions. The Safety Commission wants to remind everyone that seat belts save lives. Buckling up gives you the best defense against injury or death in a crash.

The facts don’t lie: when you wear your seat belt as a front-seat occupant of a passenger car, your risk of fatal injury goes down by 45 percent. For light-truck occupants, that risk is reduced by 60 percent.

The Traffic Safety Commission recommends everyone to:

* **Go Slow in Ice and Snow**– Relax and take it easy
* **Stay Focused**– Distractions can wait, put the cell phone down
* **Keep Your Distance**– Stay 200 feet behind snowplows– to stop safely. Winter driving can be extremely hazardous. According to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, approximately 41 people are killed and almost 3,400 injured each year in crashes on icy or snow-covered roads in the state.
* **Before you travel, check with the 511** Wisconsin for the latest traffic and road conditions. This information, along with live traffic cameras and traffic alerts, can be accessed on the 511 Wisconsin system, which includes a free mobile app, @511WI on Twitter, or the mobile-friendly site [**www.511wi.gov**](http://www.511wi.gov/)