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This Memorial Day, don't Become a Memory!

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Reminds Motorists that Drunk Driving Increases over the long Holiday Weekend

Dalhart, Texas — Memorial Day weekend 2017 saw 21 motorists lose their lives on Texas roadways due to alcohol and/or drug impairment. All of these were 100 percent preventable crashes.

As people head to the lake, beach, or host a BBQ, they may choose to drink alcohol or use impairing drugs. Texas law enforcement officers will be out in force looking for impaired drivers. If you do not drive sober, your chance for being arrested for a DWI will increase.

“We want all the citizens of Dallam & Hartley Counties to make it home safely this weekend. No one wins when you drink and drive or use impairing drugs and drive,” said Kay Rogers Family Community Health, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension agent for Dallam & Hartley Counties.

Not only could you become a memory in someone's life, you could also cost someone their life, or cause serious, lifelong injuries. The financial burden of getting a DWI can run as high as \$17,000 — not to mention the emotional costs associated with a DWI.

Plan ahead by using a non-drinking driver or a taxi/rideshare service to get you home. If that is not an option, sleep at a friend's house. Planning ahead can make this Memorial Day a memorable weekend — while not planning ahead might turn it into a nightmare.

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For information on free alcohol awareness programs available through the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, *Watch UR BAC* program in College Station, visit: watchurbac.tamu.edu, or call: 979-862-1911.

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service's *Watch UR BAC* program is funded by TxDOT and is provided at no charge to promote alcohol awareness, the dangers of impaired driving, and friends watching out for friends. Contact: Lauren Verfurth, lauren.verfurth@ag.tamu.edu, for booking information.