



Alcohol  
and Gambling  
Enforcement

Bureau of  
Criminal  
Apprehension

Driver  
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Services

Emergency  
Communication  
Networks

Homeland  
Security and  
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Management

Minnesota  
State Patrol

Office of  
Communications

Office of  
Justice Programs

Office of  
Pipeline Safety

Office of  
Traffic Safety

State Fire Marshal

## NEWS ADVISORY

Bruce Gordon, Director of Communications

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### MEDIA AVAILABILITY: DPS OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS GAMBLING AND DRUNK DRIVING SUPER BOWL WEEKEND

*Don't Gamble Your Life or Livelihood Away with Poor Choices*

**WHAT:** Super Bowl Sunday — a time to gather with friends and family for one of the most watched games of the year. It's also one of the most dangerous times on Minnesota roads and one of the biggest days of the year for illegal gambling.

To discuss drunk driving and gambling concerns during the big game, subject matter experts from the Department of Public Safety will be available to speak with reporters.

Each year, an average of 164 people are arrested for drunk driving on Super Bowl Sunday, averaging out to nearly four per hour, similar to New Year's Eve and Thanksgiving.

- New Year's Eve (3.9/hour)
- Super Bowl (3.7/hour)
- Thanksgiving (3.7/hour)

The party atmosphere can include millions of Americans making a friendly wager or spending money on a football board square or football numbers as they take in the game. Illegal betting can cost an establishment its liquor or charitable gambling license.

**WHEN:** Thursday, Feb. 2, 11 a.m.

**WHERE:** Minnesota Department of Public Safety Media Room  
445 Minnesota St., Suite 100, St. Paul  
Enter through media room doors adjacent to Town Square drive-thru

**WHO:** Special Agent Terry Kelley, Alcohol and Gambling Enforcement Division  
Donna Berger, Office of Traffic Safety director  
Lt. Robert Zak, Minnesota State Patrol

**WHY:**

**Drunk Driving**

Drunk driving-related crashes are a leading cause of traffic deaths in Minnesota. During Super Bowl Sunday, hundreds of drivers make the poor choice of getting behind the wheel after drinking.

**Super Bowl DWIs (Sunday – Monday)**

<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>
124 (preliminary)	156	182	147	211

**Gambling**

- According to the [American Gaming Association](#), people will bet \$4.7 billion on the Super Bowl with 97 percent of all bets being placed illegally.
- Bar owners can be held accountable through criminal and civil penalties if illegal gambling occurs at their establishment.
- It's important to oversee gambling activities to make sure they are fair to the consumer and prevent establishments from having a competitive advantage.
- To educate the public on legal and illegal gambling activity, the Alcohol and Gambling Enforcement Division created a [Minnesota Gambling Regulations Brochure](#).

**Editor's Note:** A broadcast-quality live stream of the media availability will appear on YouTube at the following link: <https://youtu.be/BSF2OPvxHFE>. If our Internet connection is interrupted, or if you experience technical issues during the live event, you can access a recorded version posted to the [Minnesota Department of Public Safety YouTube channel](#) soon after the media availability has ended.

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