

RINGING IN THE NEW YEAR WITH SAFETY!

New Year's Eve is a night to have fun and celebrate the coming year. However, safety is a must when participating in the festivities. Whether you're staying in and celebrating with friends and family, or you're traveling, following a few safety tips will ensure that you're safe and sound when the clock strikes midnight, ringing in the New Year!

- **Designate a Driver:** If you are going to be driving New Year's Eve, do not drink and drive. If you have a friend who does not prefer to drink, make sure they take the wheel. You might even be on the water this New Year's Eve. The person in charge of navigating the boat needs to be cautious, and this still applies to them! It is important to be safe on the water as well, so drink sensibly.
- **Be Alert:** Be aware of your surroundings and how others are acting. Stay away from those who are out of control and might cause harm. Taking preventive measures is key. If someone is really intoxicated, prevent them from trying to drive or leaving with someone they do not know. It is important to keep an eye out for each other.
- **Do not Drive:** If you do not have to go behind the wheel, avoid it. More people will be driving under the influence on this night, so avoid a potentially dangerous accident by staying off the road. Otherwise, be alert and drive defensively. Most importantly, wear your seatbelt! Also, using public transportation is a wise option. If taking a cab is too expensive, crashing at a friend's place nearby is a convenient solution.
- **Monitor your Alcohol Intake:** Most people will be drinking on New Year's Eve, and there is nothing wrong with that. Just be sure to pay attention to how much you and others are consuming. Drinking too much alcohol can have lethal effects. Be responsible.
- **Do not forget about your pets!** They are just as much a part of the family as everyone else. If you are using fireworks, anything with loud noises, or fire, be sure that pets are kept at a distance as well as children. None of these are a good mix.
- **Be careful with open flames:** If you are burning candles, incense, or oil burners, remember to extinguish them before you turn in or before you leave the room they are burning in. Pay extra attention to pets and children around open flames.
- **Plain and simple, No Fireworks!**

Everyone wants to have an unforgettable night (in a good way!) By simply using some common sense, we can keep it that way.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!