

## *June 2017*

Kent County Council launches drink-driving campaign

Kent County Council's recent new figures reveals around one in six of all road deaths involve drink drivers. A new study shows that over the last three years there have been 654 crashes and 951 casualties as a result of a driver being impaired by alcohol. Of the 951 casualties, 161 people were seriously injured while 18 people died as a result of drink-driving.

"You don't have to be drunk to be dangerous on the roads. Just one drink can increase the chances of having a crash, sometimes with tragic consequences for you, the victims involved and their families."

Small amounts of alcohol will affect your ability to drive safely and it will affect your reaction times and ability to drive.

"The message is simple - if you're driving, is having a drink worth it?"

Maidstone had the highest casualties with 109 followed by Thanet with 105 and Canterbury with 100. August saw the most drink related collisions over the three year study period and the most collisions involving alcohol were recorded [between 10pm and 11pm](#).

Half of all alcohol related collisions occurred at the weekend and a quarter of all collisions occurred on a Saturday.

More than half of all collisions happened on roads with a 30mph speed limit.

The penalties on drink drivers can be far-reaching.

Driving bans and prison sentences can lead to drink drivers losing their jobs, while fines and increased insurance premiums can have a long-lasting financial effect.

Throughout the next few months, Kent Police will be carrying out road checks at all times of the day across the county and officers will focus on high risk locations.

Chief Inspector Peter Steenhuis from Kent Police's Roads Policing Unit said: "Drivers should never get behind the wheel if they have had alcohol or are under the influence of controlled drugs as they significantly increase the chances of harming themselves and others."

Kent Fire and Rescue Service Director of Operations Sean Bone-Knell said: "Unfortunately, our firefighters are frequently called out to deal with serious devastation on our roads caused by drivers under the influence of alcohol.

It is simply not worth risking your life and the lives of others by drinking alcohol at all if you intend to drive."

Geoffrey Lymer  
Kent County Councillor  
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