

New Years Eve Safety

7 New Year's Eve Safety Tips

Seven safety tips for New Years' Eve Celebrations, green background with white letterings, green, tan and white stars

New Year's Eve comes with a lot of expectations and pressure to have a wonderful and memorable night. This can involve drinking, big parties, going out and fireworks. Make sure you keep the following tips in mind while making plans for your celebrations.

Don't drink and drive! It has been said many times, but you can never say it enough. If you plan on going out for New Year's Eve, designate a sober driver, take a cab, plan to sleep over at the host's home, or arrange for a sober driver to pick you up. Don't ever drive while under the influence.

Plan for guests' safety. If hosting a party, plan a way to have guests get home safely or have a place for them to sleep over if they don't have a sober driver.

Consider pet safety. Animals get frightened around loud noises. Make sure you give proper attention to your pets, so they don't run away in a panic, cause car accidents, bite people, or get lost. Keeping your pets inside can help avoid these issues. Make sure any pet that has a chance to get outside is properly tagged.

Make a plan with your kids. If your kids are old enough to drive, make sure they understand the rise in accidents during the holidays and encourage them to stay in one place rather than party hop.

Don't leave your car overnight. New Year's Day is the second most active holiday for car theft. If you must leave your car, make sure it is locked and try to pick it up as early as you can the next day.

Be mindful at public events. Don't go any place by yourself, make sure you have a cell phone on you, be aware of your surroundings, and don't set your drink down anywhere unattended.

Don't use fireworks or flare guns without understanding local laws and safety rules. See the following regulations on fireworks for New York State:

Permitted: Ground-based or hand-held sparkling devices including cylindrical fountains, cone fountains, and wood sparklers/dipped sticks, party poppers, and snappers.

Prohibited: Aerial consumer fireworks, firecrackers and chasers, skyrockets, roman candles, bombs, and metal wire sparklers.

Enjoy your celebrations and be as safe as possible. When things go wrong it can ruin an evening ... or worse! Stay safe, stay smart, and make this New Year's Eve unforgettable for the right reasons!

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SAFETY TIPS

Don't Drink and Drive

42% of traffic fatalities during the New Year's period are due to drinking and driving. If you plan on drinking, designate a driver. Keep contact info for local cab companies on hand. If someone is too impaired to drive, take their keys to prevent them from getting behind the wheel.

Keep Pets Safe

Pets can get spooked from all the holiday excitement. In case they get loose, make sure your pet is wearing an ID tag before the night begins, and keep them in a secure location in your home.

Be a Responsible Host

If you're part of the 23% of the U.S. population that plans on entertaining at home, have non-alcoholic drinks available for your guests. Stop serving alcohol hours before the party ends.

Stay Alert

Before the night begins, charge your phone. Be aware of your surroundings. If you see suspicious activity, call the police. Remain social media smart and don't post your whereabouts, which could invite burglars to see you aren't home.

Use Fireworks Safely

Purchase fireworks from a reliable source. When using them, observe local laws. Find an open area clear of power lines and homes. Also, make sure a responsible adult is supervising children and pets.