

One Foolish Act Can Ruin a Thousand Other Great Ones

A life Jeremy Becker will never live...

On April 3, 2015 a drunk driver killed 16-year-old Jeremy Becker while he was riding his bicycle home. He also killed the marriage to his wife Heidi, the woman he would have met in five years; their children Matthew and Jenny; the days on Lake Griffin; and the day his daughter would have been married on the lawn of the home they would have lived in.



A family Miguel Ortega will never have...

On January 10, 2015 a drunk driver killed Miguel Ortega as he waited to cross the street. He also killed the day in 2017 Miguel would meet Maria, the woman he'd marry; their two girls, Angela and Emma; the days laughing as he taught them to fish; and that summer day in August when they surprised him on his 42nd birthday.



*If you're impaired,
don't drive.*



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Everyone has different preferences when it comes to transportation, but there's one thing all road users share: everyone is a pedestrian at some point.

Unfortunately, some road users share another, often fatal preference. **Impairment.**

Impairment can mean many things, but most often it means operating under the influence of alcohol or drugs (including some prescription drugs).

Each year thousands of motorists, pedestrians, and bicyclists are seriously or fatally injured in completely preventable, alcohol- and drug-related crashes.

Motorists commit a crime whenever their ability to safely operate a vehicle is impaired by the effects of alcohol or drugs.

But what about impaired pedestrians and bicyclists? Depending on the level of impairment, a pedestrian or bicyclist may not maintain the perceptual, cognitive, or physical skills required to navigate their route safely.

And let's not forget that alcohol and drug impairment often lead to poor decisions.

Impaired pedestrians are more likely to cross against the signal, dart into traffic, or trip and fall from the curb. Impaired bicyclists are more likely to ride against traffic, weave into oncoming traffic, or forget to use bike lights after dark.

In 2015, Florida confirmed 1,049 fatalities in alcohol- and drug-related crashes. Impaired pedestrians accounted for more than 22%, and impaired bicyclists accounted for more than 4% of those fatalities.

Every crash, every injury, every fatality not only affects those involved, it also affects their families, friends, and community.

How do we resolve this epidemic? **TAKE A STAND.** Be personally responsible. Don't drive, walk, or cycle while under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Remind your friends and loved ones to do the same. **HAVE A PLAN** to get home safely **before taking part in activities where alcohol or drugs may be a factor.**

Take a stand...have a plan!

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