

DON'T GET CARRIED AWAY THIS PURIM!

Purim is a very joyous holiday. It is a time we thank Hashem and celebrate the wonderful miracles He performed by averting a terrible tragedy – the loss of life.

Unfortunately, every Purim we hear of people ending up in the hospital - drunk, hurt, sick or G-d forbid, even worse.

By being safety conscious we can have a safe and happy Purim. Here are some tips for keeping safe.

Among the many Purim observances, there is one to drink wine. Consult your local rabbinical authority as to how to safely practice this. Many rabbinical authorities have stated that if drinking wine may cause one to violate *Mitzvos* or act improperly, one should not drink. They have also stated that the observance to drink is limited to the Purim *Seudah* (meal), and is limited to wine. **Please keep in mind that the Torah strictly forbids endangering one's own life or others.**

Alcohol dulls the senses, slows reflexes, and reduces coordination. Often when people are impaired they think they are fine. If you plan to drink, give your car keys to someone else before you even begin. **Friends and family:** don't let anyone drive drunk. **Parents:** tell your kids to never ride in the car with someone who may have been drinking alcoholic beverages, no matter how inconvenienced they may be or how old the driver is. Speak to your kids about the dangers of drinking alcoholic beverages.

Alcohol poisoning can result in serious permanent injury or even death, G-d forbid. If you think someone may be suffering from alcohol poisoning, do not put him or her into bed to "sleep it off." Immediately call your local EMS squad.

Symptoms of alcohol poisoning may include: confusion, inability to be awakened, vomiting while not awake, irregular or slow breathing, low body temperature, and pale or bluish skin color.

Please note: alcohol can be deadly when combined with certain prescription medications.



When driving, use extra caution. There may be inexperienced drivers on the road; perhaps teenagers home from school for Purim who are eager to do the family driving. Be alert to the fact that people, and especially children, may be excited and not use proper judgment crossing the street. Be on the lookout for children darting out between cars.

While constantly going in and out of the car to visit people and deliver *Mishloach Manos*, people might be less careful about seatbelts; however the majority of accidents occur close to home. Even if driving just a short distance, please be careful and buckle up.

Parents: supervise your kids. Know where they are going, with whom, how they will get there and back, and what time.

Wishing you a safe, healthy, and happy Purim, from all of us at Hatzolah.

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