



### **Drunk Driving Accidents Increase During Football Season**

Now that the college and professional football seasons are in full-swing, tailgates, game-watching parties, and sports bars are often packed with people wishing to watch the games. While these events are often fun ways for sports-fans to get together, the frequency of drunk-driving accidents also increase. Studies have shown that alcohol consumption rises during the fall and winter months, and a significant amount of drinking may have occurred at sporting event watch parties.

In Missouri, drunk driving accidents make up over 40% of the total number of automobile accidents every year. Often, these incidents involve innocent motorists or pedestrians that suffer life-changing injuries or death at the hands of an intoxicated driver.

Personal injury claims often depend on proving that an individual behaved in a reckless or negligent manner and caused harm to another individual. At its most basic level, personal injury or "tort" claims need to meet four basic requirements including duty to protect others, failing in that duty, causing harm to others, and harm caused by the failure to protect. An injured individual may be able to claim that the drunk driver had a society-recognized duty to protect others and failed that duty by driving drunk. In addition, he or she may be able to prove that a serious injury accident occurred and the accident was directly caused by the drunk driver.

If you have been injured in an accident caused by a drunk driver, it is highly recommended that you employ an experienced personal injury lawyer to protect your rights and your livelihood.