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DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY

Office of Highway Safety

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NEWS RELEASE

DRIVE SOBER OR GET PULLED OVER HOLIDAY CAMPAIGN BEGINS TOMORROW

STATE, COUNTY AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERING TO TARGET IMPAIRED DRIVERS

CONCORD, New Hampshire – The New Hampshire Office of Highway Safety (NHOHS) announces that beginning tomorrow and continuing through January 1, 2024, 120 law enforcement agencies throughout New Hampshire will be participating in the 2023 winter holiday season *Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over* high-visibility enforcement campaign. Drivers should anticipate increased patrols on roadways as members of state, county, and local law enforcement actively seek to detect and deter impaired drivers.

December can be a dangerous time for people on the roads. The New Hampshire Department of Safety, Division of Motor Vehicles shares these sobering statistics:

- During the 2017-2021 December months, 6 people were killed in alcohol-impaired crashes on New Hampshire roads.
- During the 2019-2022 December months, at least 39 drivers involved in non-fatal crashes on New Hampshire roads were suspected of being under the influence, had been drinking, had been using illegal drugs, and/or had taken medication.
- In 2021, there were 118 people killed in crashes on New Hampshire roads. Of those crashes, 70.3 percent were alcohol and/or drug-related. Causation data for 2022 and 2023 is still being finalized.

“As residents and visitors make plans for their holiday celebrations with families and loved ones, a safe ride home should be part of those plans,” said Lt. Christopher Storm of the New Hampshire State Police, which is partnering with the NHOHS on the upcoming enforcement campaign. “Choosing to drive drunk puts drivers, their passengers, and everyone else on the road at risk.”

The NHOHS thanks all agencies and their members who are participating in this effort to protect lives and take impaired drivers off the roads. The initiative is funded by the U.S. Department of Transportation’s National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) through grants issued by the NHOHS. Additionally, the NHOHS encourages residents and visitors to always make a plan to get home safely before they drink by designating a sober driver or using a taxi or rideshare app. Anyone who sees a potential drunk driver on the road should dial 911 immediately.



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