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DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY

Office of Highway Safety

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NEWS RELEASE

NEW HAMPSHIRE LAW ENFORCEMENT PLANS HIGH-VISIBILITY ENFORCEMENT ON ST. PATRICK'S DAY WEEKEND; DRIVERS URGED NOT TO OPERATE IMPAIRED

CONCORD, N.H. – Today, the New Hampshire Office of Highway Safety (NHOHS) is alerting drivers of a planned high-visibility enforcement initiative involving state, county and local law enforcement during the upcoming St. Patrick's Day weekend. The goal of the initiative is to deter and detect impaired drivers and save lives.

"Drivers in New Hampshire should know that we have zero tolerance for impairment," said New Hampshire Department of Safety Assistant Commissioner Eddie Edwards. "Anyone who drinks and gets behind the wheel puts their lives and the lives of innocent others in jeopardy."

A deadly crash occurred on St. Patrick's Day in 2021 in Bedford. In the years since, impairment has been a leading factor in numerous crashes statewide and dozens of impairment-related arrests have been made on the holiday.

100, or 80%, of the 137 deadly crashes that occurred on New Hampshire roads in 2022 were alcohol and/or drug-related, according to data from the New Hampshire Department of Safety's Division of Motor Vehicles. 107 people were killed as a result of the crashes related to impairment.

"Crashes involving impairment are completely preventable," said New Hampshire State Police Lieutenant Christopher Storm. "Everyone who plans to drink on St. Patrick's Day should plan for a safe and sober ride home."

Under New Hampshire state law, an individual who is caught driving impaired could face serious consequences including a mandatory suspended license, a minimum fine of \$500, misdemeanor or felony criminal charges, jail time, the requirement of an ignition interlock device, attendance of a driver education program and higher insurance rates.

The NHOHS partnered with various State agencies and advocacy organizations to create a social media PSA encouraging residents and visitors not to drive impaired. The PSA has been posted on [Facebook](#), [X \(formerly Twitter\)](#) and [Instagram](#). Media outlets are encouraged to share the PSA.

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