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DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY

Office of Highway Safety

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NEWS RELEASE

49 ARRESTED DURING IMPAIRED DRIVING ENFORCEMENT INITIATIVE OVER SAINT PATRICK'S DAY WEEKEND

CONCORD, N.H. – The New Hampshire Office of Highway Safety (NHOHS) announces more than four dozen arrests were made and nearly 1,000 vehicles were pulled over during a high-visibility impaired driving enforcement initiative during Saint Patrick's Day weekend. The effort was conducted throughout the state from Friday, March 15 to Sunday, March 17.

The goal of the initiative was to change dangerous driving behaviors by deterring and detecting drivers who operated impaired. Members of 39 participating state, county and local law enforcement agencies stopped 965 vehicles and 49 arrests during the effort. 21 of the arrests, almost half, were for Driving Under the Influence (DUI). Additionally, law enforcement issued 918 warnings and 106 summonses and checked 513 child restraints. Summonses were written for speed, failure to move over for emergency vehicles, reckless driving and other violations.

In addition to the above data, the New Hampshire Liquor Commission's Division of Enforcement, which partners with the NHOHS, conducted 75 premise inspections. The agency made 6 arrests during those inspections, including for fake identifications, unlawful possession of alcohol and prohibited sales. 6 administrative notices and 1 warning were also issued.

Impaired driving can be costly – and even deadly. Per 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. Additionally, 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.

The final results of this initiative may increase as additional participants in the enforcement campaign provide data. The effort was funded by the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration through grants issued by the NHOHS. The NHOHS thanks all agencies and their members who participated in this effort to protect lives and take impaired drivers off the roads, as well as the residents and visitors of New Hampshire who committed to getting home safely.



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