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DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY

Office of Highway Safety

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NEWS RELEASE

INCREASED IMPAIRED DRIVING ENFORCEMENT PLANNED IN CHESHIRE COUNTY

CONCORD, N.H. – To prevent impaired driving, the New Hampshire Office of Highway Safety (NHOHS) is joining forces with law enforcement agencies in Cheshire County to conduct additional patrols beginning tomorrow, Thursday, Jan. 25, 2024. During the enforcement effort, members of state, county, and local law enforcement agencies will actively seek to find and arrest impaired drivers. Residents and visitors should anticipate seeing an increased presence of law enforcement officers on roadways.

“These increases in patrols, coordinated in partnership with our local police departments, will continue across the state throughout the year,” said Assistant Commissioner Eddie Edwards of the New Hampshire Department of Safety. “This is a collective responsibility that requires constant enforcement to send a strong message that driving impaired on New Hampshire roadways will not be tolerated.”

The effort is consistent with the NHOHS mission, “to reduce traffic crashes and the resulting deaths, injuries, economic losses and property damage on the roadways in the State of New Hampshire”. From 2019 to 2022, more than 150 people were killed in crashes involving alcohol-impaired drivers statewide, according to data maintained by the New Hampshire Department of Safety’s Division of Motor Vehicles.

No one is immune to the effects of impairment. There are plenty of options to help drivers get home safely, such as designating a sober driver or calling a taxi or rideshare. According to the U.S. Department of Transportation’s National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), a DUI/DWI arrest can cost up to \$10,000.

Participating patrols are funded by NHTSA through grants issued by the NHOHS. The NHOHS thanks all agencies and their members who are participating in this effort to protect lives and take impaired drivers off the roads, as well as the residents and visitors of New Hampshire who commit to getting home safely.

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