



## State of New Hampshire Department of Safety

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#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## PRESS RELEASE

### OFFICE OF HIGHWAY SAFETY ENCOURAGES MOTORING PUBLIC TO DRIVE SOBER AHEAD OF HOLIDAY WEEKEND

**Concord, NH** — This Independence Day, New Hampshire law enforcement agencies will be participating in the Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over enforcement campaign. During the holiday weekend, law enforcement will work together with the Office of Highway Safety (OHS) and the motoring public to prevent impaired driving. In support of law enforcement's dedication to protecting the lives of residents in their communities, there will be increased activity on the roads with zero tolerance for those who drive impaired.

In NH, there were 90 fatal crashes in 2019. Of those 90 crashes, 56 (64.4%) were related to alcohol and/or drugs. Of the 101 fatalities in that same year, 37 victims (38.6%) died of an alcohol-related crash.

"Sadly, many people think driving impaired is no big deal," said Captain William Haynes, Commander OHS. "The consequences are serious: If you are arrested for a DUI, that DUI will follow you throughout your life. Under no circumstances is it ever acceptable to get behind the wheel of a vehicle impaired. Doing so endangers you, your passengers, and everyone on the road with you. If you're heading to Fourth of July events this weekend, remember: *Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over.*"

This Fourth of July, the OHS and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) recommend these safe alternatives to drinking and driving:

- Remember that it is never okay to drink and drive. Even if you have had only one alcoholic beverage, designate a sober driver or plan to use public transportation or a ride sharing service to get home safely.
- To report a reckless driver/erratic behavior, dial \*77 from your mobile phone and choose Option 2 for NHSP dispatch, or call your local police department. If possible, please pull over, park and call from a safe location or have a passenger call.
- Do you have a friend who is about to drink and drive? Take the keys away and make arrangements to get your friend home safely.

Follow OHS on *Twitter* at [https://twitter.com/nh\\_ohs](https://twitter.com/nh_ohs) and *Facebook* at <https://www.facebook.com/NHHighwaySafety>. Also, sign up for *NH Alerts* to receive emergency information via your mobile phone.

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