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DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY

Office of Highway Safety

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEWS RELEASE

INCREASED IMPAIRED DRIVING ENFORCEMENT PLANNED IN BELKNAP COUNTY

BELKNAP COUNTY, N.H. – To prevent impaired driving, the New Hampshire Office of Highway Safety (NHOHS) is joining forces with law enforcement agencies in Belknap County to conduct additional patrols beginning today, Thursday, May 23, 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.

“Unfortunately, impaired driving continues to claim lives on our roads,” said Assistant Commissioner Eddie Edwards of the New Hampshire Department of Safety. “Once again, our partners are coming together in a collaborative effort to deter and detect drivers who make dangerous and potentially deadly decisions.”

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”.

- In 2022, there were 146 people killed in crashes on New Hampshire roads. Of those crashes, 73% percent were alcohol and/or drug-related.
- From 2016-2022, 854 people died in crashes in New Hampshire. Of those 854 people, 515 (60%) were victims of an alcohol and/or drug-related crash.

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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