

## **TZD Tuesday | Nov. 21, 2023 – Holiday DWI Enforcement**

The holiday season is here, along with the joys and sometimes stress of getting together with friends and family to celebrate. Holiday celebrations and alcohol often go hand-in-hand, and sometimes people lose track of how many drinks they've consumed. This can lead to driving impaired.

To help keep families safe this holiday season, law enforcement statewide will participate in an extra DWI enforcement and awareness campaign starting Nov. 22 and running through New Year's Eve. Law enforcement will be looking for drivers who appear impaired, whether by alcohol or other substances.

Driving while impaired by any substance is illegal. Other substances, ranging from hemp-derived THC edibles to prescription medications and sleep aids, can also affect safe driving abilities. Every single person that makes the choice to drive impaired risks taking a life or killing themselves in a crash.

### **A DWI is no Holiday**

- Plan for a safe ride: designate a sober driver, use a safe, alternative transportation option, or stay at the location of the celebration.
- Speak up: offer to be a designated driver or be available to pick up a loved one anytime, anywhere. If you see an impaired person about to get behind the wheel, get them a safe ride home.
- If you plan to drive, refrain from drugs, whether legally or illegally obtained. Driving high is a DWI.
- Some medications are fine on their own but can impair you when mixed with other medications or alcohol - even a small amount. Learn about the interactions and talk to your doctor or pharmacist.
- Buckle up: the best defense against an impaired driver.
- Report impaired driving: call 911 when witnessing impaired driving behavior. Be prepared to provide location, license plate number and observed dangerous behavior.

There is an easy way for us to help reduce traffic deaths on our roads – by encouraging our friends and family members to make safe choices behind the wheel this holiday season. Changing the culture of Minnesota roadway users begins with us. If you plan on drinking, secure a sober ride. If you see an impaired person about to get behind the wheel, speak up and find them a safe ride home. Together, we can drive Minnesota toward zero deaths!