



For Immediate Release

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Two DUI drivers arrested within Port Townsend construction zone

Port Townsend – Two impaired drivers were arrested Wednesday night within an hour of each other while traveling within a construction zone on State Route 20 in Port Townsend.

A 22-year-old Port Townsend man was arrested by Port Townsend Police Department (PTPD) officers just after midnight Wednesday, June 11, 2018, after ignoring traffic controllers and nearly striking a worker. The driver was arrested and determined to be nearly two times over the legal limit.

An hour later, Washington State Patrol (WSP) Troopers arrested a 30-year-old Port Townsend man who admitted to consuming alcohol while celebrating his 30th birthday. As the man drove up to the construction zone, he rolled down his window to speak to the traffic controller who detected the odor of intoxicants and called for law enforcement. The driver was arrested and determined to be over three times over the legal limit.

Both men were booked into Jefferson County Jail for Driving Under the Influence.

Lakeside Industries Inc. started evening work in May on a Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) project paving six miles of State Route 20 from the intersection of State Route 19 and the Port Townsend Ferry Terminal. WSP Communications has received 12 calls in the past month regarding erratic drivers, specifically citing excessive speed and lane travel.

With several construction projects continuing throughout the summer in Jefferson County, WSP is urging drivers to focus on driving safety. Drivers caught speeding within construction zones face double the fines. Those who drive in a manner endangering the lives of others can be cited for reckless endangerment of a roadway worker, a gross misdemeanor with a 60-day license suspension.

In addition to the State Route 20 project, WSDOT also is replacing worn mechanics that operate the draw span of the Hood Canal Bridge (State Route 104) during evening closures. The City of Port Townsend is also completing its 2018 Water Street Enhancement Project. Madison Street will be closed July 20 and July 21 for a repaving project, according to the City of Port Townsend.

For more information on upcoming construction projects, visit www.wsdot.wa.gov or www.ptmainstreet.org.

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