



*****For Immediate Release*****

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Government and Media Relations

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Message From the Chief of the Washington State Patrol

We are entering a time of increased travel on our already busy and sometimes snowy highways over the next couple of weeks. Super Bowl celebrations, Valentines Day dinners, and family getaways over the long Presidents' Day weekend will bring people together in celebration and good cheer but will also increase traffic on our highways.

The Washington State Patrol wants to remind everyone that increased celebrations sometimes lead to increased danger from impaired driving. Please, don't make the worst decision of your life and get behind the wheel impaired by drugs or alcohol. Driving under the influence puts lives at risk and is one of the leading causes of traffic fatalities across our state and nation. Our job is to keep the roads as safe as possible and that means we will be out there looking for impaired drivers as well as those who are speeding, distracted, or driving unsafely for the conditions.

So, as we enjoy ourselves, let's also join the mission to eliminate impaired driving. Plan ahead. Designate a sober driver. Call a cab or use ride-share options and other organized transportation. Make the good choice to do things right and get home safely. If you host a gathering and alcohol is served, ensure guests have plenty of water, food, and a safe ride home. Take responsibility for yourself and others and don't let impaired driving turn a victory party into a devastating defeat for your loved ones.

Enjoy the game, enjoy that special dinner or trip, and remember, we all share the road and owe it to one another to make good choices and keep our roadways safe.

Chief John R. Batiste

"Service With Humility"

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