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Plan For a Safe and Sober Ride on 420—and Everyday

[Chelan, Douglas, Kittitas, Okanogan, Grant, Counties] — Ahead of April 20, the U.S. Department of Transportation’s National Highway Traffic Safety Administration is reminding drivers that it’s illegal in every state and territory to drive under the influence of drugs. On “420” — a number associated with marijuana — some might observe a day of increased marijuana use. But no matter the day, the message is the same: If You Feel Different, You Drive Different.

“Driving while impaired by any substance — legal or illegal — puts you and others in harm’s way,” said PIO, Trooper Jeremy Weber “It’s a common and dangerous misconception that people drive better when they are high,” reminds Weber.

Driving high has serious and deadly consequences. A NHTSA study, from 2019-2021, showed that 26% of drivers seriously injured or killed in crashes tested positive for marijuana.

If someone sees a friend who is about to drive high, they should take away the keys and help them get a sober ride home. And, if anyone spots an impaired driver on the road, contact local law enforcement.

Drugs, including marijuana, affect driving abilities, which puts everyone on the road at risk. It has been proven that marijuana can slow reaction times, impair cognitive performance, and make it more difficult for drivers to keep a steady position in their lane. These are all unsafe driving behavior that can cause serious injuries or death in a crash.

A key to preventing impaired driving is to plan ahead. Designating a sober driver — that’s someone who won’t be drinking or using drugs — is one option. Other options include booking a rideshare or using a taxi.

Join the NHTSA and WSP in sharing the lifesaving message, If You Feel Different, You Drive Different.

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