


Don't Be A Statistic: Designate a Sober Driver for St. Patrick's Weekend

High Visibility Enforcement Against Impaired Driving Scheduled for March 11-21 in Maryland and Delaware Along US 13 and US 113

DOVER, DE (March 12, 2021) – This year St. Patrick's Day may look a little different as Delaware continues to stress social distancing and COVID-19 precautions. But for those planning to celebrate with family and friends, the Delaware Office of Highway Safety, Maryland Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle Administration's (MDOT MVA) Highway Safety Office, and local law enforcement want to make sure they stay safe by driving sober or making a plan for a sober ride home.

For the fourth year, more than 20 transportation and law enforcement agencies from Delaware and Maryland will conduct saturation patrols and sobriety checkpoints along the 145 miles of US 13 (Ocean Highway) and nearly 75 miles of US 113 (Worcester Highway) on the Delmarva Peninsula beginning Thursday, March 11, and continuing through Sunday, March 21. St. Patrick's Day is Wednesday, March 17.

In Delaware, the Office of Highway Safety (OHS) will also partner with additional agencies statewide for this year's high visibility enforcement focused along the US 13 corridor. Last year during the St. Patrick's Day holiday period, a total of 102 arrests for impaired driving were made statewide in Delaware.

Coinciding with high-visibility enforcement efforts, Delaware's Office of Highway Safety will share the *Be Driven Not to Drive* campaign through a variety of platforms throughout the state including billboards, English and Spanish print media, social media platforms, music streaming services, and television/online streaming services. The campaign combines visible tactics with a publicity strategy to educate the public and promote safe driving behaviors in compliance with the law. 

“Partnering with Maryland allows our efforts to be amplified as we combat impaired driving during this holiday period,” said Delaware OHS Deputy Director Richard Klepner. “OHS will partner with law enforcement throughout Delaware with increased visibility and presence on our roadways. There’s no excuse to drink and drive. Even one can be too many. Plan ahead to have a sober ride.”

In anticipation of the St. Patrick's Day DUI enforcement and campaign initiatives, OHS has launched a first-of-its-kind digital tool called the Arrive Alive DE Visualizer DUI-Involved Crash Tool to share information with Delawareans and visitors on crash locations and educate website visitors to drive sober. Housed on the Arrive Alive DE website, this 5-year snapshot of DUI-involved crashes shows the concentration of crashes across the state through an interactive heat map.

In addition to the Arrive Alive DE Visualizer DUI-Involved Crash Tool, OHS has launched other versions of the digital tool for occupant protection and pedestrian safety. The Arrive Alive DE Visualizer is designed to educate drivers and pedestrians to help save lives in Delaware and Arrive Alive to their destination. Visit [ArriveAliveDE.com](https://www.arrivealivede.com) to explore this digital tool and more on highway safety education in Delaware.

“Impaired driving is never the right choice so if you do plan to go out, be sure to plan ahead for a sober ride home,” said

MDOT MVA Administrator Chrissy Nizer, who also serves as Governor Larry Hogan's Highway Safety Representative. "Every year, families lose loved ones to impaired driving crashes. It's up to each of us to prevent these tragedies from occurring."

In 2019, 535 people were killed on Maryland's roadways and one-third of those deaths involved someone impaired by alcohol, drugs, or both. During last year's enforcement effort, participating agencies issued 703 citations in Wicomico, Somerset, and Worcester counties – including 205 for speeding – and made 18 arrests for impaired driving.

To coincide with the high visibility enforcement, the MDOT MVA's Highway Safety Office will also share *Be the Make A Plan Driver* and *Be the Sober Driver* messages on a variety of social media platforms including Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Snapchat.



Additional information on Maryland's *Be the Driver* campaign can be found [here](#).

More information on Delaware's *Be Driven Not to Drive* campaign is available [here](#).



About the Delaware Office of Highway Safety

The Office of Highway Safety (OHS) is committed to improving the safety of Delaware's motoring public by focusing on behavioral traffic safety issues, such as impaired driving, seat belt use, speeding, child passenger safety, pedestrian and bicycle safety, motorcycle safety, and teen driving issues. Follow the Delaware Office of Highway Safety on [ArriveAliveDE.com](https://www.arrivealiveDE.com), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), and [Snapchat](#).



About the Maryland Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle Administration (MDOT MVA) Highway Safety Office

Learn more about the MDOT MVA's Highway Safety Office at [ZeroDeathsMD.gov](https://www.ZeroDeathsMD.gov) or on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram at @ZeroDeathsMD.

CONTACT:

Cynthia Cavett, Delaware Office of Highway Safety, Cynthia.Cavett@delaware.gov

Whitney Nichels, MDOT MVA, wnichels@mdot.maryland.gov