# **St. Patrick’s Day Impaired Driving**

# **Key Messages**

Please incorporate these messages in your communications to your audience over the next few days

**Don’t Rely on Luck. Have a Plan!**

* Most people in Washington believe driving impaired is unsafe and unacceptable.
* It’s not true that using cannabis after drinking will sober you up. If you use marijuana after drinking alcohol you increase your crash risk.
* Buzzed driving is drunk driving.
* Don’t hesitate – designate! All St. Patrick’s Day party plans should include a designated driver.
* Don’t rely on the luck of the Irish. Drive sober or get pulled over.
* Be someone’s lucky charm this Saint Patrick’s Day. Volunteer to be the designated driver.
* Create your own luck this St. Patrick’s Day. Plan ahead!
* Choose a Designated Driver
* Taxi or rideshare
* Take public transportation
* Spend the night
* Leave your car at home
* You’ll lose a lot of green when you drink and drive. Expect to pay at least $10,000 in attorney’s fees, fines, court costs, lost time at work, higher insurance rates, car towing and repairs, and more if you get a DUI.

**The Dangers of Impaired Driving**

* Impaired driving kills. In 2018 there were 319 fatalities in motor vehicle traffic crashes involving alcohol or drug impaired drivers in Washington.
* St. Patrick’s Day is one of the deadliest holidays on our nation’s roads. From 2014 -2018, 249 people were killed nationally due to drunk driving crashes over the holiday.
* Most people believe mixing alcohol with other drugs and driving is dangerous, and with good reason. Forty-four percent of drivers involved in fatal crashes from 2008-2016, who tested positive for alcohol or drugs, tested positive for two-or-more substances (poly-drug drivers).
* Alcohol and cannabis are the most common combination of intoxicants.
* The number of poly-drug drivers has increased an average of 15 percent every year since 2012.
* Between 2008-2017, 597 people died in crashes in Washington involving delta-9 THC positive drivers, which was about 12% of all traffic deaths.
* Alcohol and drug impaired driving is the leading contributing factor in Washington fatal crashes. Nearly half of all traffic deaths in Washington involve an impaired driver.
* Would you get in a car with someone who had difficulty steering, impaired perception and concentration, short-term memory loss and lack of speed control? These are all the effects on driving of someone who has a blood alcohol concentration of .08.

Impaired driving includes:

* Alcohol
* Marijuana
* Illegal drugs
* Prescription drugs
* Many over the counter drugs like Nyquil, pain and allergy meds

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