

Kitsap County Traffic Safety Task Force "Target Zero" 3951 NW Randall Way, Silverdale, WA 98383 360-633-0805 360-307-9818 (fax) Marsha Masters, Target Zero manager



For immediate release:

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Emphasis 420 Most drivers do the right thing!

Extra traffic patrols will be out statewide on Saturday, April 20, looking for drunk and drugged drivers.

That is why the Kitsap County "Target Zero" Task Force is working to spread the message about doing the right thing when it comes to driving, not only on this day, but every day you are on traveling on our roadways. Our goal is to reduce the number of traffic fatalities in Washington State to Zero -- Zero for your family and Zero for our state.

It's up to all of us to reach that goal.

Whether you're driving yourself or your friends, make sure you stay sober or plan for a sober ride home. Remember: *It's not just about you!* There are other people on the roads who also want to get to their destination safely. Before you put your keys in the ignition, remind yourself: impaired driving is not acceptable. If you've been drinking or drugging, you are in no shape to drive. Enjoy the drive by doing the right thing and drive sober.

Recreational marijuana became legal in Washington in 2012. While consuming marijuana is legal for those over the age of 21 in Washington, driving impaired by alcohol or drugs (including marijuana and other legal drugs) is still illegal.

Driving a motor vehicle is a major responsibility that we undertake every day. Most drivers on our roads will do the right things: they driver sober, wear a seat belt, pay attention and drive within safe speed limits. We want to thank those responsible drivers and ask that everyone work together to keep our family and friends from driving after consuming drugs or alcohol. If every person does their part to achieve the goal of zero traffic deaths for their family, then together we will achieve Target Zero in Washington State.



Kitsap County Sheriff Gary Simpson states, "Impaired driving is 100% preventable. Just don't do it!"

Whether you smoke, eat, vape or dab marijuana, it may lead you to becoming impaired and therefore unable to operate a motor vehicle safely. A person may experience more impairment when they mix marijuana with any other drug (alcohol being a drug).

Sheriff's traffic investigator Deputy Mike Shannon speaks with a driver during a 2018 emphasis patrol.

Simply put, most people in Washington believe driving impaired is unsafe and unacceptable. Many of us who encounter someone impaired are willing to act or intervene to prevent them from driving. Intervening is what we do as friends, family and neighbors. It is part of being a good Washingtonian. Always wear your seatbelt, watch your speed, pay attention and drive sober every trip.

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