



Zero fatalities. Zero excuses.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 13, 2020

For more information: NDDOT Safety Public Information Program Manager, 701-328-2598 or law enforcement contact information provided upon request.

## **Drug Recognition Experts: *Driving High Is Impaired Driving - Even on 4/20***

*Williston, ND-* Driving under the influence of cannabis or other mind-altering substances is dangerous and illegal. April 20 (4/20) is a popular day among marijuana users to get high. While there are many theories as to why 4/20 has become a counterculture celebration, Drug Recognition Experts (DREs) agree: don't drive high.

The perception that marijuana will not adversely affect your driving ability is a myth. It has been proven that Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) in marijuana slows reaction times, impairs cognitive performance and makes it more difficult for drivers to keep a steady position in their lane. It's important to remember if you feel different, you drive different. Driving while impaired by any substance is illegal and can be deadly to the driver, passengers and other road users.

DREs warn if you choose to drive under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs, law enforcement will remove you from the road.

"In 2019, McKenzie County was in the top two counties in the state for the highest number of fatal crashes, and alcohol and/or drugs were a factor in approximately one-third of those crashes. This is another reason we need to get impaired drivers off the road," explains DRE Shannon Wellen from the McKenzie County Sheriff's Office. "Using marijuana negatively affects driving skills putting all road users at increased risk. If you are impaired by any substance, don't drive."

Learn more about the Vision Zero strategy and its traffic safety campaigns at [VisionZero.ND.gov](https://www.visionzero.nd.gov).

Visit the [North Dakota Crash Memorial Wall](#) to view memorials built on the hope of preventing another death on North Dakota roads.

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