

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 12, 2020 For more information contact: NDDOT Safety Public Information Program Manager, <u>lbjork@nd.gov</u> or law enforcement contact information is provided upon request.

Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over enforcement for underage drinking begins October 16

Williston, ND - A statewide campaign against underage drinking begins this week as a part of *Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over.* Law enforcement across the state will conduct compliance checks and shoulder taps during the campaign that runs from October 16 to November 15.

Drinking alcohol under the age of 21 is illegal. Underage persons found to be consuming or in possession of alcohol could face fines and end up in court. No matter the age, driving under the influence of alcohol is not only illegal, but dangerous.

"Young drivers might not yet understand the personal responsibility that comes with driving. We want them to know drinking and driving is always dangerous, and drinking underage is illegal," says McKenzie County Sheriff Matt Johansen. "Enforcement campaigns like *Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over* give law enforcement the tools to reinforce the message to youth to always drive sober."

Alcohol and drug-related crashes and arrests are 100% preventable. Many lives would be saved in North Dakota each year if every driver consistently makes the choice to always drive sober, designate a sober driver or use a ride-hailing service.

This campaign is part of the <u>Vision Zero</u> strategy to eliminate motor vehicle crash fatalities and serious injuries on North Dakota roads.

Visit the <u>North Dakota Crash Memorial</u> wall to view memorials built on the hope of preventing another death on North Dakota roads.

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