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

*High Visibility Enforcement Against Impaired Driving Scheduled for
March 13-17 in Maryland, Delaware and Virginia Along US 13 and US 113*

GLEN BURNIE, MD (March 12, 2020) – As revelers prepare for festivities for the St. Patrick's Day weekend, transportation leaders are reminding everyone to make a plan for a safe and sober ride. For the third year, more than 35 transportation and law enforcement agencies from Maryland, Delaware and Virginia will conduct high visibility enforcement along US 13 (Ocean Highway) and US 113 (Worcester Highway) on the Delmarva Peninsula.

Beginning Friday, March 13, and continuing through St. Patrick's Day on Tuesday, March 17, saturation patrols and sobriety checkpoints will take place along the 289 miles of US 13 and nearly 75 miles of US 113 in Delaware, Maryland and Virginia.

"Impaired driving is never the right choice, and during holidays when more people are on the roads, we urge drivers to plan ahead and encourage friends and family to do the same," said Maryland Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle Administrator (MDOT MVA) 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 2018, 512 people were killed on Maryland's roadways. One-third of those deaths involved someone impaired by alcohol, drugs or both. Last year during this enforcement effort, participating agencies issued 689 citations in Wicomico, Somerset and Worcester counties – including 194 for speeding – and made 36 arrests for impaired driving.

Maryland law enforcement agencies taking part this year include Maryland State Police, the Wicomico County Sheriff's Office, Worcester County Sheriff's Office, Somerset County Sheriff's Office, Salisbury Police Department, Pocomoke Police Department, Berlin Police

Department, Princess Anne Police Department, Fruitland Police Department and Delmar Police Department. In addition, MDOT MVA's Highway Safety Office will share messages to encourage safe and responsible driving.

In Virginia, agencies participating in the weekend enforcement effort include Virginia State Police and the Accomack County, Exmore Town, Northampton County and Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel police departments.

“Our law enforcement partners are dedicated to preventing drunk driving and saving lives,” said Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles Commissioner Richard D. Holcomb, who also serves as the Virginia Governor's Highway Safety Representative. “Border-to-border mobilizations amplify these efforts and serve to remind all drivers that, as a region, we have zero tolerance for this deadly behavior.”

In 2019, there were no impaired driving arrests along US 13 in Virginia during St. Patrick's Day weekend.

In Delaware, the Office of Highway Safety (OHS) will partner with additional agencies statewide for this year's high visibility enforcement focused along the US 13 corridor. Last year during St. Patrick's weekend, a total of 87 impaired arrests were made statewide in Delaware.

“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.”

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