**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: [Date]**

**CONTACT: [Name, Phone Number, Email]**

***If You Feel Different, You Drive Different.***

**Plan for Safety on the Road This 420**

**[City, State]** — No matter the time or day, driving under the influence of marijuana, or any other drug, is an illegal and life-threatening behavior. Ahead of marijuana culture’s high holiday, 420, the U.S. Department of Transportation’s National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) urges individuals to plan to drive fully sober or to get a sober ride home. Drivers are responsible for keeping themselves and other road users safe at all times, and that includes on 420. NHTSA reminds all drivers: *If You Feel Different, You Drive Different*.

“Like individuals who choose to drink alcohol and get behind the wheel, there are marijuana users who tell themselves it is ok to drive high. But driving while high on marijuana, or any other drug, is always illegal and unsafe,” reminds **[Local Leader]**. “It affects all drivers, as it impairs their ability to operate a vehicle safely and makes them a serious hazard to themselves and to passengers, pedestrians, and other drivers and road users. If you use marijuana, either stay where you are or get a ride with a sober driver. Steer clear of driving anytime you are under the influence of drugs,” **[he/she]** said.

In past years, many drivers killed in crashes who were tested for drugs had positive results. In 2019, specifically, 49% of these drivers tested positive for drugs. Downplaying the impairing effects that marijuana has on one’s driving abilities only puts the impaired driver and other road users at higher risk of a fatal crash. Marijuana and other drugs affect everyone’s driving abilities. It has been proven that marijuana can slow reaction times, impair cognitive performance, and make it more difficult for drivers to keep a steady position in their lane, all unsafe driving behavior that can cause serious injuries or death in a crash. This is why it is important to spread this lifesaving message: *If You Feel Different, You Drive Different*.

Those who plan to use drugs should not drive. Drivers should secure a designated sober driver or call a taxi or rideshare for a sober ride home. If a driver finds they are unable to drive, they should give their keys to a sober driver so that person can get them home safely. When a friend has been using drugs and is considering driving, friends should be proactive — take away the keys and help them get a sober ride home. If anyone spots an impaired driver, contact local law enforcement.

Join NHTSA in sharing the lifesaving message, *If You Feel Different, You Drive Different*. For more information on impaired driving, visit [www.nhtsa.gov/risky-driving/drug-impaired-driving](https://www.nhtsa.gov/risky-driving/drug-impaired-driving).

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