**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: [Date]**

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

**NHTSA Warns of the Dangers
of Drug-Impaired Driving**

**[City, State]** — This Independence Day, the U.S. Department of Transportation’s National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) is warning drivers about the deadly consequences of drug-impaired driving. Drivers should remember that if Fourth of July holiday plans include using drugs, they should plan for a sober driver to get home safely. Remember: If You Feel Different, You Drive Different.

“When it comes to drug use behind the wheel, just don’t do it,” said **[Local Official]**. “Drugs and driving do not mix. We want our community to enjoy a safe and happy Fourth of July. There are so many safe, reliable ways to get where you want to go. If a driver is planning to use any type of drug, plan ahead for a sober ride. Remember: If You Feel Different, You Drive Different.”

Violating **[State]**’s drug-impaired driving laws can be costly.

Many people believe that being high doesn’t affect driving abilities, but they are wrong. 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.

Those who plan to use drugs should not drive. Even over-the-counter and prescription medications can have impairing effects. 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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