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# News Release

## Arkansas City police to conduct impaired driving enforcement

*April 19-20 enforcement effort to focus on drivers under the influence of drugs*

ARKANSAS CITY, Kan. (April 17, 2019) — The Arkansas City Police Department will join other law enforcement agencies in Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska and Oklahoma this weekend in a traffic enforcement effort to reduce impaired driving while under the influence of alcohol or other drugs.

In an effort to change a growing trend of impaired driving, agencies across this six-state area will be extra vigilant April 19-20 when patrolling around city, state and federal highways.

Deaths and injuries continue to increase national due to both alcohol- and drug-impaired drivers.

“Regardless of whether a drug is legal or illegal, it’s a serious crime to drive while impaired by any drug,” said Police Chief Dan Ward. “We can no longer share our roadways with these drug-impaired drivers. Impaired driving is not a victimless crime.”

All available Drug Recognition Expert and Advanced Roadside Impaired Driver Enforcement officers will be out in force to address this danger. Officers will issue citations to any individual who refuses to obey traffic laws, whether it is for driving while impaired, speeding, texting or failing to buckle up.

If a driver suspected of impairment refuses to submit to testing, a search warrant may be obtained for that individual’s blood.

April 19-20 were chosen as the enforcement dates because 4:20 p.m. April 20 is a noted time at which people who partake of certain drugs tend to use them. The Journal of the American Medicine Association has found a 12-percent increase in the relative risk of a fatal crash on April 20, as compared to identical time intervals on other control days.

“Even one death is unacceptable,” Ward said. “Please don’t drive while impaired, slow down, put the phone away or turn it off, and always buckle up.”

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**For immediate release**