

Contact: Interim Chief Eric Burr  
Phone: (620) 441-6601  
Fax: (620) 442-1410  
[eburr@arkansascityks.gov](mailto:eburr@arkansascityks.gov)

Police Department  
City of Arkansas City  
117 W. Central Ave.  
Arkansas City, KS 67005



# News Release

## ACPD launches 'If You Feel Different, You Drive Different' effort

*NHTSA-sponsored campaign focuses on impaired driving, marijuana usage*

ARKANSAS CITY, Kan. (April 15, 2021) — Starting Friday, the Arkansas City Police Department is teaming up with the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) to spread the message that drug-impaired driving of any kind is dangerous and illegal.

Although its origins are uncertain, April 20 — more commonly known as 4/20 — has become synonymous with marijuana use and, in some circles, the date is considered a "marijuana holiday."

On Tuesday, April 20, there likely will be an increase in illegal marijuana use. To help keep drug-impaired drivers off the roads, NHTSA reminds all drivers: "If You Feel Different, You Drive Different."

Just like drunk driving, drug-impaired driving is illegal nationally. Between 2009 and 2018, of those drivers killed in crashes and tested for marijuana, the presence of marijuana nearly doubled, according to NHTSA. In 2018, 46% of drivers who were killed in crashes, and were tested for drugs, tested positive.

"This is why it's so important we spread this lifesaving message: 'If You Feel Different, You Drive Different,'" said Interim Police Chief Eric Burr.

"It doesn't matter what term you use: If a person is feeling a little high, buzzed, stoned, wasted or drunk, he or she should not get behind the wheel. Think driving while high won't affect you? You're wrong. It has been proven that THC can slow reaction times, impair cognitive performance and make it more difficult for drivers to keep a steady position in their lane."

Designated drivers should stick to the plan: Don't use drugs. For all drivers, the best defense against impaired drivers on the road is a seat belt. Wear it on every trip, and make sure all passengers do, too.

"It doesn't matter what the day is — any impairment is a threat when you're behind the wheel of a vehicle," Burr said. "We are asking our community members to obey the law and to make safe choices when behind the wheel of a vehicle."

**For immediate release**

*more*

## Options to get home safely

Marijuana use is illegal in the state of Kansas, but if you are impaired by marijuana, alcohol or other substances, have a plan in place: Don't drive. If you leave your house unprepared to get home safely, you might not make the best choice regarding how to get home.

Here are a few tips to help you to prepare for a safe night out:

- If you have ingested an impairing substance such as marijuana or alcohol, do not drive. Passengers should never ride with an impaired driver. If you think a driver might be impaired, do not get in the car.
- If you are drug-impaired, pass the keys to a sober driver who can drive you safely to your destination. As with drunk driving, it is essential that drug-impaired drivers refrain from driving a vehicle. It is never okay to drive while impaired by any substance.
- Do you have a friend who is about to drive while impaired by alcohol or drugs? Take the keys away and arrange to get them home safely. Don't worry about offending someone — they'll thank you later.
- If available, use your community's sober ride program.
- If you see an impaired driver on the road, contact the Arkansas City Police Department at [\(620\) 441-4444](tel:6204414444) or call 911.

"By working together, we can save lives and help keep Arkansas City's roadways safe," Burr said.

"Please join us in sharing the lifesaving message: 'If You Feel Different, You Drive Different.'"

For more information about impaired driving, visit [www.nhtsa.gov/risky-driving/drug-impaired-driving](http://www.nhtsa.gov/risky-driving/drug-impaired-driving).

###