



## *Kitsap County Traffic Safety Task Force*

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The Kitsap County and Mason County Traffic Safety Task Forces announce their joint efforts in combating impaired driving by conducting emphasis patrols this St. Patrick's Day weekend in Kitsap and Mason Counties. Each Task Force will have extra patrols out Friday evening, March 13, looking for drivers impaired by alcohol or drugs, as well as for those violating traffic safety laws of speeding, aggressive driving and others. These patrols are part of the X-52 Sustained Enforcement campaign (Extra Patrols Every Week) partially funded by the Washington State Traffic Safety Commission.

Last year, the Kitsap County Traffic Safety Task Force made 170 contacts, resulting in six DUIs, and 32 speeding violations, as well as nine others for suspended or revoked licenses.

Participating member agencies of the Kitsap County Traffic Safety Task Force include the Kitsap County Sheriff's Office, Bremerton, Poulsbo, Suquamish and Bainbridge Island Police Departments, the Washington State Patrol, as well as the Washington State Liquor Control Board. Mason County's participating agencies will include the Shelton Police Department, Mason County Sheriff's Office, Squaxin Tribal Police and Washington State Patrol.

Kitsap County had 20 traffic related fatalities in 2008, and speeding and impaired driving were prevalent factors in nearly half of those. This number is down from the previous two years. The X-52 patrols are just one of the additional strategies being used to reduce fatal crashes throughout Washington State.

Remember that if you plan on using alcohol, never drive while impaired, and never let your friends drive while they are impaired. Don't depend on dumb luck this St. Patrick's Day. Designate your sober driver before the party begins.

*The mission of the Kitsap County Traffic Safety Task Force is to reduce the number and severity of traffic related deaths and injuries within Kitsap County.*