



STATE OF DELAWARE
OFFICE OF HIGHWAY SAFETY
P.O. BOX 1321
DOVER, DELAWARE 19903-1321
302-744-2740
www.ohs.delaware.gov

Newsletter Article

March 2011

Not long ago, I heard a story about a man who had 3 herniated disks in his back. As you might imagine, he was in a lot of pain. This particular evening he had taken his last pill and could not sleep, so he decided to go to the drug store for a refill. The medication was quite strong, and when he was on the way to the store he hit a mailbox and an unsuspecting driver. When the man was approached by police, he remembered hitting the mailbox, but had no memory of hitting the car.

So when I ask, what do prescription drugs and alcohol have in common....it's easier to understand through this story that both can lead to Driving under the Influence.

Did you know?

- In Delaware, impaired driving includes driving under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs, both illicit **and prescription**.
- Many drivers are unaware they can be charged with DUI if they drive while under the influence of prescription drugs.
- Some drugs, like anti-anxiety drugs, can dull alertness and slow reaction time while others, like stimulants, encourage risk-taking and impair the ability of the driver to judge distances.
- The most common prescription drugs found in the offending driver's system are Codeine, Xanax, Valium, Percocet, Nembutol and many cough syrups.

What you can do

- Drivers should heed the labels that warn users not to operate vehicles or heavy machinery after consumption. These legally prescribed drugs can **and will** affect one's ability to safely operate a motor vehicle.
- Ask your doctor if your medication may impair your ability to drive a vehicle safely.

For more information on the Prescription Drug and Driving Campaign along with other OHS campaigns visit OHS website at www.ohs.delaware.gov

Follow your Rx. Arrive Alive DE"