

## **Showing Students the Effects of Driving Under the Influence**

By NM School Board representatives Adin Welander & Kenzy Ellis

North Mason High School is staging a “Mock Car Crash” to spread awareness about impaired driving. The crash will be held on April 27, 2016 on the high school campus. Student representatives are working with Susan Bradbury, North Mason Regional Fire Authority; Central Mason Fire & EMS; Mason County Sheriff’s Office; and the Washington State Patrol to plan and stage the event.

The mock crash is essentially a fake crash to show teens about the effects of driving under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs, including marijuana. Selected students have been interviewed and invited to participate.

In addition to the crash, students will view a video presentation entitled “Every 32 Minutes”. The average nationwide statistic for how often someone is killed by impaired driving is every 32 minutes. This point will be emphasized because every 32 minutes, a NMHS student will be placed under a white sheet on a gurney and sequestered out of sight for the duration of the program.

An all day assembly will be held the next day when students who participated in the mock crash will speak about the experience.

Students and staff have been planning this program for months. It has been proven that this program is extremely effective for adolescence viewers.