



Don't push your luck this St. Patrick's Holiday

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On behalf of the California Office of Traffic Safety

St. Patrick's Day isn't a celebration just for the Irish anymore. The holiday is widely celebrated across the country and is one of the deadliest, due to the number of drunk drivers on the road. This year, there will be an increase in DUI patrols during and around the holiday to help keep our roads safe. The California Office of Traffic Safety wants to remind everyone not to push their Irish luck this holiday. Luck won't help if you drive while impaired.

In 2014, 29 people were killed in drunk driving crashes over the St. Patrick's Day holiday period. But not only are drivers at risk, pedestrians are too. Thirty-five percent of the pedestrians killed in crashes had BACs of .08 or higher. To make sure everyone has a safe and enjoyable holiday, the California Office of Traffic Safety offers tips on getting home safely after the celebrations are over.

Plan ahead, designate a sober driver: If you plan to consume alcohol, make it a point to designate a sober driver before the party begins. Waiting until you've been drinking to make this decision increase your chances of poor judgment, resulting in potentially regrettable decisions.

Pedestrians are at risk too: Pub crawlers, if walking after a night of drinking, make sure to have a sober friend with you to help keep an eye out for cars. Be alert always and obey all street signs and signals. Jay-staggering is neither cool nor safe.

Law enforcement will be out in full force: St. Patrick's Day is known for its celebration with alcohol. To help combat drunk driving, there will be an increase in DUI patrols during and around the holiday to make sure the roads are safe for everyone.

For additional information or tips on getting home safely this St. Patrick's Day, please visit www.ots.ca.gov.

The California Office of Traffic Safety wants everyone to have a lucky, fun and safe holiday!

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