



NEWPORT BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT

PRESS RELEASE

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March 11, 2019
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Newport Beach Police Department Working to Keep Roadways Safe this St. Patrick's Day *Please Celebrate Responsibly: Buzzed Driving Is Drunk Driving*

Newport Beach, Calif. — St. Patrick's Day is celebrated by millions across the country, often culminating in parties where drinking is involved. Sadly, this leads to tragedies on our roadways because of drivers who choose to leave parties impaired.

This St. Patrick's Day weekend (March 16th and 17th), the Newport Beach Police Department will have additional officers on patrol in an effort to stop drivers suspected of driving under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs.

According to data from the California Highway Patrol (CHP), one person was killed and 48 others were injured in DUI crashes on St. Patrick's Day last year. In 2017, 59 people were killed nationwide in drunk-driving crashes over the St. Patrick's Day holiday (March 16-March 18), accounting for 37 percent of all traffic deaths.

Due to St. Patrick's Day becoming a dangerous holiday on our roads, the Newport Beach Police Department encourages everyone to plan ahead and use a designated sober driver, ride-share or public transportation. Even one drink can be one too many.

"Don't even put yourself in a position where you need to ask whether you are okay to drive," Newport Beach Police Department Lieutenant Cartwright said. "If you feel the slightest hint of a buzz, you should not be driving."

The Newport Beach Police Department also wants to remind everyone that a "DUI Doesn't Just Mean Booze." Prescription drugs, over-the-counter medications and marijuana can all be impairing, especially in combination with alcohol or other drugs.

"We all know the dangers about driving impaired," Newport Beach Police Department Lieutenant Cartwright said. "Let's all be responsible adults and help each other get where we need to go safely."

Funding for St. Patrick's Day DUI enforcement is provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

