

Carol Stream Police Department

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Carol Stream Police Department says celebrate safely this St. Patrick's Day weekend or risk a trip to jail.

Carol Stream, IL – Carol Stream Police will be conducting special patrols this St. Patrick's Day holiday cracking down on impaired drivers officials announced today.

"We are reminding everyone this weekend that if you drink and drive in Carol Stream this St. Patrick's Day, you lose," said Sergeant John Jungers. "If you plan on drinking alcohol, designate a sober driver before the party begins. Be responsible or risk a DUI."

"Too often, St. Patrick's Day can be a deadly and dangerous time on our roads because of impaired driving," said Jungers. "That's why starting today and running through March 17, we will be working overtime with increased Saturation patrols to catch and arrest anyone who is driving while impaired."

According to National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) estimates, in Illinois in 2006, 594 people died in crashes involving alcohol (at least one driver involved had a BAC of .01 or higher), representing 47 percent of all motor vehicle crash fatalities.

According to IDOT data, on St. Patrick's Day last year in Illinois, six people lost their lives in motor vehicle crashes. Five of those deaths involved a drinking driver.

Jungers said that always designating a sober driver and not letting friends drive impaired are just two of several simple steps to help avoid a tragic crash or an arrest for impaired driving. Other important tips include:

If you are hosting a St. Patrick's Day party:

- Remember, you can be held liable and prosecuted if someone you served ends up in an impaired driving crash;
- Make sure all of your guests designate their sober drivers in advance, or help arrange ride-sharing with other sober drivers;
- Serve lots of food—and include lots of non-alcoholic beverages at the party;
- Keep the numbers for local cab companies handy, and take the keys away from anyone who is thinking of driving impaired.

If you are attending a St. Patrick's Day party:

- Designate your sober driver before the party begins and give that person your car keys;
- If you don't have a designated driver, ask a sober friend for a ride home; call a cab, sober friend or family member to pick you up; or just stay where you are and sleep it off until you are sober;
- Never let a friend leave your sight if you think they are about to drive while impaired;
- Always buckle up – it's still your best defense against an impaired driver.

"Driving impaired is a deadly decision, and it is against the law. We will show zero tolerance, said Sergeant Jungers. "So remember, designate your sober driver before the parties begin – or *You Drink & Drive. You Lose.*"

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