



NEWS

For Immediate Release

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For more information: NDDOT Safety Public Information Specialist, (701) 328-4559 or contact local law enforcement (contact information can be provided on request.)



Prevent Tragedies by Driving Sober *Extra Patrols on North Dakota roads in March*

Bismarck – In a month that ushers in spring and a holiday to toast the luck of the Irish, driving sober could be worth a pot o’ gold to you and yours. Drinking and driving is not only dangerous and illegal—it can be very expensive and life changing. Fifty-two law enforcement agencies across North Dakota will add extra patrols during the month of March to help save lives and prevent tragedies by removing impaired drivers from the roads.

The North Dakota Highway Patrol (NDHP) and Burleigh, Emmons, Grant, McLean and Morton County Sheriffs’ Departments are participating in the increased driving under the influence (DUI) enforcement in March, along with Police Departments in Bismarck, Lincoln and Mandan. The crackdown will be most active and coordinated among agencies around the St. Patrick’s Day holiday on March 17.

St. Patrick’s Day is a high-risk holiday for alcohol-impaired driving. Last year, from March 13 to 20, North Dakota had one motor vehicle fatality and 13 motor vehicle injuries, all alcohol-related.

“Drinking and driving are two things that never mix,” said Lt. Tom Iverson, safety and education officer with the NDHP. “Driving is a complex task, where errors can have terrible consequences, especially when reflexes, judgment and vision are impaired. If you’re going to lift a glass, hand off your keys.”

Use these tips to make this St. Patrick’s Day safe for everyone.

- **ST. PATRICK’S DAY:** Before you take your first sip of green beer, leave your keys at home or give them to a friend. Make sure your designated driver is committed to a sober evening. If you’re the designated driver, do not drink. Enjoy non-alcoholic beverages and tweet your status using the hashtag #designateddriver.
- **EVERY DAY:** Commit to driving sober today, St. Patrick’s Day, and every day. If you’re impaired, don’t let pride get in the way of calling a cab, sober friend or family member to get you home safely. You can also download the NHTSA SaferRide app, available for [Android](#) and [Apple](#) phones to get you home safely.

CODE FOR THE ROAD

FOLLOW THE RULES. FOLLOW THE LAW.



Funding for high-intensity impaired driving enforcement is provided by the North Dakota Department of Transportation in order to prevent impaired driving crashes. Learn more about the efforts to reduce roadway deaths and serious injuries at ndcodefortheroad.org or join the conversation on the *Code for the Road* Facebook or Twitter page. Memorials to individuals killed by impaired drivers in North Dakota can be viewed at ndcodefortheroad.org/memorial.

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