



# NILES POLICE DEPARTMENT

## MEDIA RELEASE

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## Don't Rely on the Luck o' the Irish this St. Patrick's Day

*Drive sober and buckle up for a safe celebration*

**Niles, IL** – The Niles Police announced it will conduct special patrols on St. Patrick's Day March 15-19, 2019 to arrest impaired drivers and to encourage use of seat belts.

"We're urging you to plan ahead for St. Patrick's Day festivities," said Commander Robert Tornabene. "Don't ever drive under the influence of alcohol or any drug. It's not just about you. There are other people on the roads who are impacted by your decisions."

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

- Remember, you can be held liable if someone you serve is involved in an impaired driving crash.
- Make sure your guests designate a sober driver in advance or help arrange ride-sharing with sober drivers.
- Serve plenty of food and non-alcoholic beverages.
- Download a ride-sharing app on your phone to help partygoers, and keep phone numbers for local cab companies handy.
- Take keys away from anyone who is trying to drive impaired.

If you're going out for St. Patrick's Day:

- Designate a sober driver ahead of time, and give that person your keys.
- If you don't have a designated driver, call a cab, use ride-sharing, have a sober friend or family member pick you up, or stay where you are and sleep it off.
- Never let a friend leave your sight if you think they're about to drive impaired.
- Buckle up – it's your best defense in a crash.

Pedestrians are at risk, too. If you are walking, keep an eye out for cars. Designated drivers should remain alert for impaired walkers who may not obey street signs and pedestrian signals.

The St. Patrick's Day enforcement campaign is part of the Illinois "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" and "Click It or Ticket" programs supported through federal funds administered by IDOT.

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