



NEWS RELEASE

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Don't Press Your Luck by Drinking & Driving Over St. Patrick's Day Weekend

State and local law enforcement will be taking all impaired drivers they find to jail

(ATLANTA) - A four leaf clover, rabbit's foot or any other good luck charm will not keep you out of jail if you make the foolish decision to drink and drive during the St. Patrick's Day weekend.

The Governor's Office of Highway Safety, Georgia State Patrol and local law enforcement remind everyone that the state's zero tolerance policy remains in effect and all drunk and drugged drivers found on the road will find themselves sitting in a jail cell wearing an orange jumpsuit.

"There are going to be St. Patrick's Day celebrations in Savannah, Dublin, and other places around our great state," Governor's Office of Highway Safety Law Enforcement Services Director Roger Hayes said. "The one place we don't want people to celebrate is behind the wheel of a motor vehicle if they have been drinking. From ride share services to taxi cabs to designated drivers, plan a safe, sober ride well before the party begins."

State and local law enforcement will be on patrol looking to prevent crashes and to save lives by taking drunk and drugged drivers off the road.

According to the Georgia Department of Transportation, 12 people were killed in 3,137 crashes that happened over a three-day period during last year's St. Patrick's Day celebration in Georgia. 119 of the crashes that happened over the St. Patrick's Day weekend in 2018 were caused by drunk or drugged drivers.

According to data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, alcohol was a factor in one out of every four traffic deaths in Georgia in 2017.

"Drinking and driving is a mistake that can never be corrected when someone is killed or permanently injured because of a crash," Hayes said. "You will enjoy whatever event you are celebrating more by not having to worry how you are going to get home and having a sober ride arranged before the party begins."

The Governor's Office of Highway Safety also offers these options and safety reminders:

- Schedule a ride with a rideshare service or cab company before leaving for your party
- Download NHTSA's free SaferRide app, available on Apple and Android devices, which can connect you to a local cab company or friend to pick you up
- Call AAA Tow-2-Go at (855) 286-9246 for a free ride/tow up to 10 miles from March 15 through 6:00 a.m. on March 18. (More info at https://autoclubsouth.aaa.com/safety/tow_to_go.aspx.)
- Let friends and family know you will come pick them up if needed
- Offer to drive if know someone is too impaired to get behind the wheel and you are sober to drive
- Reward designated drivers with free non-alcoholic beverages

For more information on GOHS' impaired driving awareness programs, visit <https://www.gahighwaysafety.org>. Follow GOHS on social media at www.facebook.com/gahighwayafety , @gohsgeorgia on Twitter and Instagram or GOHSGEORGIA on YouTube.

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