



BREA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Brea Police Department Encourages Safe St. Patrick's Day Celebrations

Brea, Calif. – As St. Patrick's Day approaches, the Brea Police Department reminds everyone that the best way to celebrate the holiday is to plan ahead for a safe, sober way to get home. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 1,355 people were killed in alcohol-impaired traffic crashes in California in 2023.

We want people to make St. Patrick's Day memorable for all the right reasons. Before you raise a glass, make sure you've planned for a safe ride home, whether that's a designated sober driver, rideshare, taxi or public transportation.

Additional officers will be on patrol on the evening of March 17 looking for drivers suspected of driving under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs.

Plan for a Safe Celebration

Before heading out for St. Patrick's Day festivities, follow these tips to stay safe:

- **Designate a Sober Driver:** Choose someone ahead of time who will stay alcohol-free and make sure everyone gets home safely.
- **Use Ridesharing Services, Taxis or Public Transportation:** Rideshare apps and transit options are safe alternatives to driving if you've been drinking.
- **Host Responsibly:** If you're hosting, offer plenty of non-alcoholic beverage options and make sure your guests have safe, sober rides home.
- **Look Out for Others:** Don't let friends or family members drive impaired. Take their keys and help arrange a safe ride.
- **Never Drive Impaired or Distracted:** It's not worth the risk – your life and others' lives depend on it!

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Impaired driving is not just from alcohol. Prescription drugs, over-the-counter medications, cannabis products and other drugs may also cause impairment. If you plan on drinking or taking medications with a driving warning label, let someone who is sober drive. If you see someone who appears to be driving while impaired, call 9-1-1.

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