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# Media Release

## Don't Depend on Dumb Luck—Designate a Sober Driver Before the Party Begins

For many Americans, St. Patrick's Day has become a popular night out to celebrate with friends and family. Unfortunately, due to the large number of drunk drivers, the night out has also become very dangerous.

The National Highway Transportation Safety Administration reports that in 2009, there were 103 crash fatalities on St. Patrick's Day. Out of that number, 47 people were killed in traffic crashes that involved at least one driver or motorcyclist with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .08 or higher.

**The Colonial Heights Police Department** recommends the following easy steps, for a safe St. Patrick's Day.

- Plan a safe way home before the festivities begin;
- Before drinking, please designate a sober driver and leave your car keys at home;
- If you're impaired, use a taxi, call a sober friend or family member, or use public transportation so you are sure to get home safely;
- If you happen to see a drunk driver on the road, don't hesitate to contact your local law enforcement;
- And remember, if you know someone who is about to drive or ride while impaired, take their keys and help them make other arrangements to get to where they are going safely.

**The Colonial Heights Police Department** will be increasing patrols on the holiday to ensure the safety of all citizens travelling throughout the city.