



# Avoid the 30 Riverside County PRESS RELEASE



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Tuesday, March 16, 2010

## CONTACT:

Karen Haverkamp  
Traffic Bureau Administrative Supervisor  
Riverside Police Department  
951-353-7980 [khaver@riversideca.gov](mailto:khaver@riversideca.gov)

## **Friends Don't Let Friends Drive Drunk This St. Patrick's Day** *Don't Depend on Dumb Luck—Designate a Sober Driver Before the Party Begins*

**Riverside, California** – 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.

On March 17, the Avoid the 30 DUI Task Force will deploy additional DUI patrols into the cities of Beaumont, Blythe, Corona, Coachella, Lake Elsinore, Moreno Valley, Murrieta, Norco, Palm Springs, Riverside, San Jacinto, and Temecula in an effort to keep streets safe by taking careless dangerous Drunk or Buzzed Drivers off the road before they crash.

On St. Patrick's Day 2008, 37 percent of the drivers and motorcyclists involved in fatal crashes had a blood alcohol content (BAC) of .08 or above, according to statistics by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). Additional NHTSA statistics show that in 2008, there were 134 crash fatalities on St. Patrick's Day. Out of that number, 50 people were killed in traffic crashes that involved at least one driver or motorcyclist with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .08 or higher.

"Whether you are meeting a few friends at the local pub after work or attending a party, if you plan on using alcohol, never drive while impaired—and never let your friends drive if you think they are impaired." "*Friends Don't Let Friends Drive Drunk*," said Riverside Police Department Supervisor Karen Haverkamp, the Riverside County AVOID the 30 director.

Riverside 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;
- If you happen to see a drunk driver on the road, don't hesitate to Call 911;
- 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.

"Driving impaired is simply not worth the risk," said Riverside Police Lieutenant Guy Toussaint. "Not only do you risk killing yourself or someone else, but the trauma and financial costs of a crash or an arrest for driving while impaired can be really significant. Don't depend on dumb luck this St. Patrick's Day. Designate your sober driver before the party begins."

For more information, please visit [www.StopImpairedDriving.org](http://www.StopImpairedDriving.org) or [www.avoidthe30.org](http://www.avoidthe30.org). Funding for this program was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

###

