

# Irish or not don't drink and drive, says Highway Patrol

As St. Patrick's Day approaches Sunday, the Kansas Highway Patrol is urging party-goers to have fun, but plan ahead for a safe weekend.

People across the nation will gather to celebrate the day, and typically alcohol plays a part in these celebrations. Before you go out, or attend parties, make sure you have a safe way to get home. Law enforcement across the state will be out actively looking for impaired drivers.

It is illegal in Kansas to drive or attempt to operate a motor vehicle with a blood alcohol content of .08 or higher. Penalties for impaired driving include loss of driving privileges, fines, court costs, and possible jail time.

The more severe consequences of drinking and driving include injuring or killing yourself, an occupant of your vehicle, or the occupants of another vehicle.

To celebrate safely, the patrol suggests taking the following precautions:

- Do not drink if you're planning to drive.
- If you plan to drink, designate a non-drinking driver and give that person your keys. You should also take with you a list of numbers for friends to call for a safe, sober ride.
- Never ride with a driver who has been drinking.
- If possible, plan to spend the night at the event.

If you are throwing a party, provide non-alcoholic alternatives, and never let guests drive drunk.

- Report impaired drivers to your local law enforcement agency.
- Always buckle up and properly secure children in their safety seats, this is your best defense if you're involved in a crash.



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