

ST. PATRICK'S DAY PLANNER
ENFORCEMENT VERSION
SAMPLE OpEd
406 Words



Drunk Driving: Over the Limit. Under Arrest.
Don't Push Your Luck This St. Patrick's Day

In 2005, 59 percent of all traffic fatalities that occurred during the evening of St. Patrick's Day to the early hours of the following morning involved drivers with blood alcohol concentrations (BAC) of .01 and higher. Of those, 89 percent involved a driver with a BAC of .08 or higher. This year, the risk may be even greater since St. Patrick's Day festivities will take place on a Saturday night.

That is why **[Local Law Enforcement Organization]** announced today that they will be out in full force on St. Patrick's Day cracking down on and arresting drunk drivers.

Driving with a BAC of .08 or higher is illegal in every state, but too many are still not getting the message. According to the FBI's Uniform Crime Report, more than 1.3 million people were arrested for driving under the influence during 2005.

[Local Law Enforcement Official] said that always designating a sober driver before the party begins and never letting friends drive drunk are just two of several simple steps to help avoid a tragic crash or an arrest for impaired driving. Other important tips include:

- Plan ahead: Whenever you plan on consuming alcohol, designate your sober driver before going out and give that person your keys;
- If you're impaired, call a taxi, use mass transit or call a sober friend or family member to get you home safely;
- Use your community's Sober Rides program **[insert your local Sober Rides specifics here]**;
- Promptly report drunk drivers you see on the roadways to law enforcement;
- And remember, *Friends Don't Let Friends Drive Drunk*. 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.

Drunk driving is simply not worth the risk. Not only do you risk killing yourself or someone else but the trauma and financial costs of a crash or an arrest for driving impaired can be significant. Violators often face jail time, the loss of their driver's license, higher insurance rates, big attorney fees, unpaid time away from work, and dozens of other expenses.

No matter what you drive—a passenger car, pickup, sport utility vehicle or motorcycle—if you are caught driving impaired, you will be arrested. So, this St. Patrick's Day, don't push your luck. Remember, *Drunk Driving. Over the Limit. Under Arrest.*

For more information, please visit www.StopImpairedDriving.org.