

MERCED POLICE DEPARTMENT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Merced Police Department Working to Keep Roadways Safe this St. Patrick's Day *Please Celebrate Responsibly: Buzzed Driving Is Drunk Driving*

St. Patrick's Day is celebrated by millions across the country, often culminating in parties where drinking is involved. Sadly, this leads to tragedies on our roadways because of drivers who choose to leave parties impaired.

According to data from the California Highway Patrol (CHP), one person was killed and 48 others were injured in DUI crashes on St. Patrick's Day last year. In 2017, 59 people were killed nationwide in drunk-driving crashes over the St. Patrick's Day holiday (March 16-March 18), accounting for 37 percent of all traffic deaths.

This St. Patrick's Day (March 17), the Merced Police Department will be conducting enforcement operations to keep our roads safe.

Due to St. Patrick's Day becoming a dangerous holiday on our roads, the Merced Police Department encourages everyone to plan ahead and use a designated sober driver, ride-share or public transportation. Even one drink can be one too many.

The Merced Police Department also wants to remind everyone that a "DUI Doesn't Just Mean Booze." Prescription drugs, over-the-counter medications and marijuana can all be impairing, especially in combination with alcohol or other drugs.

Funding for St. Patrick's Day DUI enforcement is provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

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