



# PRESS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CELEBRATE THIS ST. PATRICK'S DAY RESPONSIBLY:  
DESIGNATE A SOBER DRIVER, YOUR LUCKY CHARM**

Seal Beach, CA – With St. Patrick's Day festivities fast approaching, the Seal Beach Police Department will be on alert for suspected drivers and urges the community to plan ahead and celebrate responsibly. Don't rely on the luck of the Irish – designate a sober driver to ensure a safe and enjoyable holiday for all.

Additional Seal Beach Police officers will be on patrol on March 17 from 12 p.m. to 2 a.m., specifically looking for drivers suspected of driving under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs.

"We want everyone to enjoy St. Patrick's Day, but we also want our community to be safe," said Seal Beach Police Chief Michael Henderson. "If you plan to drink, plan ahead for a sober ride home. Don't let a night of fun turn into a tragedy."

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), St. Patrick's Day remains one of the deadliest holidays on U.S. roads. In 2021 alone, 13,384 preventable deaths were attributed to drunk driving, accounting for 31% of all traffic fatalities that year. Over the St. Patrick's Day holiday period specifically, 47 lives were lost in alcohol-related crashes.

Chief Henderson also reminds the public that impairment isn't limited to alcohol. Marijuana, prescription medications, and even some over-the-counter drugs can impair your ability to drive safely. Know how any substance may affect you before getting behind the wheel.

The Seal Beach Police Department encourages everyone to take these simple steps for a safer celebration:

- **Plan ahead:** Designate a sober driver, use a ride-share service, or take public transportation.
- **Look out for others:** If you see someone who is about to drive impaired, step in and help them find a safe ride home.
- **Report suspected impaired drivers:** Call 9-1-1 if you see a driver who may be under the influence.

Funding for this program is provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

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