



University of Central Arkansas Police Department

Protecting and Serving the Academic Community

NEWS RELEASE

UCA Police Department Launches *“Don’t Push Your Luck This St. Patrick’s Day”*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MARCH 11, 2008

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Major Enforcement Effort Seeks to Educate and Protect the Academic Community

Don’t Push Your Luck This St. Patrick’s Day

For many Americans, St. Patrick’s Day is a popular night to celebrate with friends and family. Unfortunately, it has also become a dangerous night out on our roadways due to the large number of drunk or “buzzed” drivers.

Fact: On previous St. Patrick’s Days, nearly half of the drivers involved in fatal crashes had a blood alcohol content above .08, the legal limit.

Too many drivers still don’t understand that too much alcohol and driving don’t mix. Drunk driving is no accident—nor is it a victimless crime. It’s easy to tell if you’ve had way too many, but even if you’ve had just one too many—don’t drive. Whether meeting a few friends at the local pub after work or attending a large celebration or event, never get behind the wheel when impaired—and never let your friends or coworkers drive if they are impaired.

For a Safer St. Patrick’s Day

Following these easy steps, a driver can enjoy a safe and festive celebration without jeopardizing their life and the lives of others who may be on the road.

- ✓ Plan ahead if you’ll be drinking and arrange a safe way home before the festivities begin.
- ✓ Before drinking, designate a sober driver and give that person your keys.
- ✓ If you’re impaired, call a taxi, use public transportation, or call a sober friend or family member to get you home safely.
- ✓ If you see a drunk driver on the road, promptly contact your local law enforcement agency.

- ✓ And remember, *Friends Don't Let Friends Drive Drunk*. If you know someone who is about to drive or ride with someone who is impaired, take their keys and help them make other arrangements to get to where they are going safely.

The tragedies and costs of driving drunk are serious and real. Not only do you risk killing yourself or someone else but the trauma and financial costs of a crash or an arrest for drunk driving are significant.

Drunk driving violators often face jail time, the loss of their driver's license, higher insurance rates, and dozens of other unanticipated expenses ranging from attorney fees, court costs, car towing and repairs and lost wages due to time off from work. Then, there is the added humiliation, embarrassment and consequences after informing family, friends and employers and co-workers.

Make the safe choice. Designate a sober driver before your partying begins.

Friends Don't Let Friends Drive Drunk

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