



P.O. Box 270
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102
800.800.2358
Fax: 573.634.5977
www.savemolives.com

For more information, contact Melissa Black/Sandra Hentges at 573-526-4141 or Reeve White at 573-751-5414.

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St. Patrick's Day Is Not a Lucky Day for Drunk Drivers

Statewide Impaired Driving Crackdown Planned March 16-20

JEFFERSON CITY – The luck of the Irish runs out this St. Patrick's Day weekend when motorists drive drunk. More than 200 Missouri law enforcement agencies will be taking part in a special drunk driving crackdown that will put additional officers on the road. St. Patrick's Day poses a special threat because of daylong celebrations and free-flowing green beer.

During last year's St. Patrick's Day impaired driving mobilization from March 12-14, more than 200 law enforcement agencies participated and made 379 drunk-driving arrests; issued 1,191 speeding tickets; and wrote 319 seat belt tickets. Sixty-six felony arrests were made.

“Law enforcement agencies throughout Missouri will join together to get drunk drivers off the street — and make Missouri roads safer,” said Leanna Depue, chair of the Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety's executive committee. “If you plan on drinking, don't rely on luck to get you home safe. Plan a safe ride home before the festivities begin.”

The sobering fact is that impaired driving contributes to nearly 30 percent of all Missouri traffic fatalities. In 2010, 234 people were killed and 957 seriously injured in crashes involving an impaired driver.

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