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NEWS RELEASE

The 'Luck O' The Irish' Isn't Enough for Safe Driving this St. Patrick's Day

Buffalo Grove, IL - For decades, Americans across the country, whether of Irish heritage or not, have come together to celebrate St. Patrick's Day over a pint of green beer and community festivities. Unfortunately, this merry-making can lead to dangerous driving conditions as party-goers head home, which is why the Buffalo Grove Police Department is reminding residents that *Buzzed Driving Is Drunk Driving*.

In 2017, 59 people were killed in drunk driving crashes over the St. Patrick's Day holiday period (from 6:00 p.m. on March 16 through 5:59 a.m. on March 18), according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Since even one drink can be one too many for some, the Buffalo Grove Police Department and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) is continuing to urge those celebrating the holiday to designate a sober driver before heading out for the day or night.

"St. Patrick's Day should be a fun holiday for our community members, but we expect everyone to take responsibility for their actions," said Traffic Sergeant Michelle Kondrat. "Whether you're driving yourself or your friends, make sure you stay sober, or plan for a sober ride home. Remember, it's not just about you. There are other people on the roads who want to get where they are going safely, too."

Drug-impaired driving is also an increasing problem on our nation's roads. It is illegal for drivers who are impaired by any substance—alcohol or drugs—to get behind the wheel of a vehicle. The bottom line is this: *If you feel different, you drive different.*

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