



ORANGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

NEWS RELEASE

SHERIFF-CORONER DON BARNES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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OCSD to hold DUI checkpoint St. Patrick's Day weekend

SANTA ANA, Ca. (March 12, 2019) – 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.

Leading in to the holiday, the Sheriff's Department will hold a DUI and Driver's License Checkpoint from 7 p.m. Friday, March 15, to 3 a.m. Saturday, March 16, in the city of San Juan Capistrano. Throughout the weekend, deputies will be on high-alert for drivers under the influence of drugs and alcohol.

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.

Due to St. Patrick's Day becoming a dangerous holiday on our roads, the Sheriff's 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.

"Don't even put yourself in a position where you need to ask whether you are okay to drive," said Sgt. Brian Sims, supervisor of OCSD's Traffic Division. "Arrange for a safe ride home before going out for the night."

The Sheriff's 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.

"We all know the dangers of driving impaired," Sims said. "Let's all be responsible adults and help each other get where we need to go safely."

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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