



Designate a Sober Driver This Weekend

Drunk and impaired driving kills one person every 53 minutes in the United States

March 7, 2014 – St. Patrick's Day is Monday, March 17, and the Norwalk Police Department is reminding drivers not to get behind the wheel if they've been drinking. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) reports that more than 269 people have been senselessly killed nationwide in crashes involving drunk drivers on St. Patrick's Day from 2007 to 2011. Those fatalities were preventable.

During this St. Patrick's Day weekend Norwalk Police Officers will be out on special patrols attempting to deter impaired driving. The extra patrol is funded by a traffic safety grant through the Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau. "When you celebrate this weekend, please be smart about it. If you know you're going to drink, designate a sober driver *ahead of time* to make sure you get home safely," said Chief Greg Staples. "There's never an excuse for driving after drinking."

According to NHTSA, on average, one person is killed every 53 minutes in a drunk-driving crash in the United States. Most of these crashes involved drivers who had blood alcohol concentrations of .15 or higher, almost twice the legal limit of .08.

To prevent these tragedies from occurring, Chief Staples says "plan ahead and remember that buzzed driving IS drunk driving so please designate a sober driver."