

Warning for St. Patrick's Day revelers

The California Highway Patrol is reminding everyone who celebrates St. Patrick's Day that no one is immune from the consequences of drunken driving.

Last year on St. Patrick's Day, the CHP made more than 120 arrests statewide for driving under the influence. This is a decrease from the 489 arrests in 2014 and 430 arrests in 2013.

More than 1,000 people have died in alcohol-related collisions in California every year since at least 2000, data collected through the Statewide Integrated Traffic Records System of the CHP shows. Approximately one-third of all traffic fatalities in the United States involved drunken drivers, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reports.

Ways to avoid impaired driving:

- Designate a sober driver before you go out to drink.
- If you become impaired and do not have a designated driver, call a cab, a ride-sharing service, a friend or family member, or take a bus.
- If you see a friend who is too drunk to drive, take their keys and call them a cab or ride share.
- Find out ahead of time if your community has a safe rides program, and use it.
- If you see a driver who appears to be driving impaired, do not hesitate to call 911.