



## Luck won't get you home safely this St. Patrick's Day

**The Bartlett Police Department** will conduct special patrols over the next two weeks looking for, and cracking down on impaired drivers. This campaign will run from March 13 through March 22, 2009.

Statistics from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) show over the past five years, 851 people lost their lives in motor vehicle crashes during the St. Patrick's Day holiday. Out of that number, 327 were killed in crashes that involved a drunk driver (blood alcohol concentration of 0.08 or higher). (*NHTSA defines the St. Patrick's Day Holiday as 6:00 p.m. March 16<sup>th</sup> through 6:59 a.m. on March 18<sup>th</sup>.*)

According to the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), last year in Illinois, three people lost their lives on St. Patrick's Day. One of those deaths involved a drinking driver (at least one involved driver had a BAC of 0.01 or higher). Over the last five years in Illinois, 26 people lost their lives in motor vehicle crashes, of which 11(42%) involved a drinking driver. (*These fatalities occurred on March 17, between 12:01 a.m. and midnight. Alcohol-related fatalities are fatalities that resulted from a crash in which at least one driver, either surviving or deceased, had a BAC of 0.01 or greater.*)

**The Bartlett Police Department** wants remind all citizens to always designate a sober driver and don't let your friends drive impaired.

### **If you are attending a St. Patrick's Day party:**

- Designate your sober driver before the party begins and give that person your car keys;
- If you do not have a designated driver, ask a sober friend for a ride home; call a cab, sober friend or family member to pick you up; or just stay where you are and sleep it off until you are sober;
- Never let a friend leave your sight if you think they are about to drive while impaired;
- Always buckle up – it is still your best defense against an impaired driver.

Please act responsibly this St. Patrick's Day. Give your keys to a sober driver before you go out. And remember if *You Drink & Drive. You Lose!*

**Sgt. Charles Snider**  
**Traffic Unit Supervisor**  
**Bartlett Police Department**  
**228 South Main St.**  
**Bartlett IL 60103**  
**630-837-0846**