



# PRESS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 15, 2018

## **The California Highway Patrol's Hollister-Gilroy Area Office reminds motorists to buckle up and designate a sober driver this St. Patrick's Day**

GILROY, Calif. – Last year on St. Patrick's Day, the CHP made 148 arrests statewide for driving under the influence (DUI). Tragically, that same day, three people were killed and 66 people were injured statewide as a result of DUI collisions.

“Don't let a day of celebration turn into a day of tragedy. If you drive impaired, you risk your life and the lives of others on the road,” said CHP Commissioner Warren Stanley. “Plan ahead before the party begins by designating a sober driver or making arrangements for a taxi or ride-hailing service.”

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) reports 29 people in the United States died in alcohol-related vehicle collisions every day in 2016 — or one person every 50 minutes. In 2016 alone, 60 people were killed in drunk-driving collisions during the St. Patrick's Day holiday period. The CHP joins with the NHTSA in reminding motorists that “*Buzzed Driving is Drunk Driving.*”

In an effort to promote safe driving habits and deter instances of driving under the influence, the Hollister-Gilroy Area office has received a grant that will make it possible for us to deploy additional road patrol officers in our Area this holiday weekend. The grant is called, Statewide Impairment Reduction Enforcement or SIR.

Funding for this program was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

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