



# MARSHALL COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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## **Sippin' Green Beer This Year? Find a Safe Ride Home**

Marshall County - St. Patrick's Day has become one of the deadliest holidays due to the number of drunk drivers on the roadways. That's why the Iowa Department of Public Safety's (DPS) Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau (GTSB), Marshall County Sheriff's Office, and Marshalltown Police Department warn to not drink and drive this St. Patrick's Day.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), in 2014, 28-percent of all crash fatalities during the St. Patrick's Day weekend involved drunk drivers, and that number rose to nearly half in the post-party hours of midnight – 6:00 a.m., of March 18, 2014.

Pedestrians walking while intoxicated are also at risk as lack of attention risks getting hit by a vehicle. In 2014, 35-percent of the pedestrians killed in crashes had a blood alcohol content of .08 or higher.

There is some good news, however. The number of fatalities over this holiday period decreased nationally from 32 in 2013 to 29 in 2014. Likewise, the number of fatalities involving drunk drivers declined from more than one-third to one-fourth. The bad news is that every one of those deaths could have been prevented.

Don't let your St. Patrick's Day celebrations end in tragedy. Law Enforcement encourages Iowans to plan ahead by identifying a designated driver or utilize another form of safe transportation if you choose to drink this St. Patrick's Day. The relatively small fee for a safe ride home is much cheaper than the thousands of dollars it will cost for a drunk driving arrest.

Let's make this St. Patrick's Day safer this year! Extra Marshall County Deputies and Marshalltown Police Officers will be on the roads March 16 – 19, 2016, to keep motorists safe. Those officers will be focusing on detecting and removing impaired drivers from our roadways. Whether you're buzzed or drunk, it doesn't matter. Buzzed Driving is Drunk Driving – drive sober and remember to buckle up!

### **About Marshall County Sheriff's Office**

The Marshall County, Iowa Sheriff's Office is headed up by Sheriff Ted G. Kamatchus. Sheriff Kamatchus is committed to keeping communities and neighborhoods safe in Marshall County.

For additional information or a sample copy, contact:  
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