



# SAFETY TIPS

## 2024 ST. PATRICK'S DAY



St. Patrick's Day is Sunday, 17 Mar 2024. Many will celebrate this popular observance with friends and family. St. Patrick's Day, while not a legal holiday in the U.S., is widely recognized and observed as a celebration of Irish and Irish American culture. These celebrations include prominent displays of the color green, religious observances, parades, and often the consumption of alcohol. The following Safety Tips are provided to help you prepare and safely execute your St. Patrick's Day celebrations:

**Statistics:** According to National Safety Council, the St. Patrick's Day holiday is the **4<sup>TH</sup> most** popular drinking day in U.S. Over 50 people needlessly die every year on St. Patrick's Day due to drunk-driving crashes. Nearly 75% of this holiday drunk drivers are 2 times over the legal limit (.08). One-third of all pedestrians killed on St. Patrick's Day had a BAC of .08 or higher.



**DRINK RESPONSIBLY:** Know your limit and don't exceed it. Monitor your alcohol intake. Avoid drinking games or replace your drink with a non-alcoholic beverage to avoid over-indulging. Don't allow peer pressure to override your plan. Never drink and drive or get into a vehicle with someone who has been drinking. Eat a meal prior to consuming alcohol and stay hydrated.

**DRUNK DRIVING PREVENTION:** Plan a safe way home before the festivities begin. Designate a sober driver and give that person your keys or call a taxi, friend, family member, or an Uber/Lyft. If you see a drunk driver on the road, pull over to a safe location and call the local police. Never let a friend drive or ride a motorcycle while impaired. Take their keys and help them make other plans to get home safely. Be mindful of the considerable efforts being conducted between federal, state, and local law enforcement. These efforts are intended to remind those of us celebrating St. Patrick's Day - to do so responsibly.



**PARTY TIPS:** If attending a party with friends, ensure everyone stays together. Don't allow someone who has been drinking to leave with others or be pulled away from the group. If hosting a party, consider collecting keys at the door. Offer non-alcoholic beverages and food. Monitor guests' alcohol intake. Know that in some states party hosts can be held liable for guests after they leave your party. Consider allowing guests to stay and sleep it off until they are safe to drive.

Get a Copy



**SAFE DRIVING:** If driving on St. Patrick's Day, be alert and cautious. Adhere to all posted speed limits. Wear seatbelts and ensure all occupants do as well - they are your best protection against drunk drivers. Stay within the posted speed limit, keep a safe following distance, know the route you are traveling, and always drive defensively. Eliminate distractions by turning off your cell phone until safely parked.



Save a Copy

**OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE:** Achieving excellence requires you to know the standards and make the decision to do things the right way, every time. Continually assess hazards and adapt controls. Don't hesitate to adjust fire if things don't look or feel right. Look after one another, show dignity and respect toward others, and make smart decisions. It is the responsibility of every Marine and Sailor to break the chain of events that may lead to a mishap.



**Trivia Information:** A shamrock is a young sprig and is used as a symbol of Ireland. St. Patrick, Ireland's patron saint, is said to have used it as a metaphor for the Christian Holy Trinity (Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit). The name shamrock simply means "young clover". St. Patrick died on 17 March, marking the day of celebration. St. Patrick's Day has been celebrated in what is now the United States, since 1601, with the first celebrations being observed in St. Augustine, FL.

**HOLIDAY MISHAPS:** Over the last few years, a few preventable mishaps have occurred with our Marines and Sailors on St. Patrick's Day. Some of these mishaps include:

- Cpl was riding a sport bike, attempted to make a turn, hit a patch of sand and lost control of motorcycle. Suffered concussion and road rash. Lost three days of work.
- HN was engaged in an argument and punched a wall. Noticed severe swelling in hand and went to clinic. HN suffered a fractured hand and received 30 days light duty.
- Cpl attended an off-base party with other Marines and began recreationally discharging firearms. CPL sustained a gunshot wound to the chest from a .45. The firearm was accidentally discharged by a LCpl from the same unit.
- Cpl playing football, tripped while running and fell landing on head/neck and lost consciousness. Taken to local hospital for precautions and monitoring.

**RISK MANAGEMENT TIPS:** Keep your St. Patrick's Day party gatherings small and ensure social distancing protocols are established. Have a plan that does not include getting behind the wheel if any alcohol is consumed. Monitor your drinks; never leave it unattended. Never accept a drink that has been opened for you. The focus of Risk Management (RM) is to identify hazards and mitigate risks. Adherence to RM principles, coupled with safety awareness enhances readiness and mission success. We must effectively manage risk in every decision we make.



**RESOURCES:**

- [National Safety Council \(nsc.org\)](https://www.nsc.org)
- [St. Patrick's Day Safety Tips | GEICO Living](#)

Manage the Risk



Protect the Force