

# Media Release

March 14, 2012

Sheriff's Office sets extra  
DUI patrols for St. Patrick's Day weekend

(Rock Springs, Wyo. - March 14, 2012) Saturday is St. Patrick's Day, and the Sweetwater County Sheriff's Office will be conducting special DUI patrols March 16 and 17.

Crashes involving drunk drivers spike nationwide over the St. Patrick's Day weekend, and the extra patrols have been set up as part of a campaign to cut down on DUI-related injury and death.

Sheriff Rich Haskell said his agency is working with Wyoming Department of Transportation's Selective Traffic Enforcement Grant Program to provide the stepped-up DUI enforcement.

One person dies every half-hour in the U.S. because of drunk driving, resulting in about about 16,000 killed per year.

30% of Americans will be involved at some point in their lives in an alcohol-related crash, whether they have been drinking or not, and statistics confirm that alcohol is a factor in 40% of all crash fatalities.

"Many like to celebrate on St. Patrick's Day, and these celebrations often involve alcohol," said Haskell. "But there's no excuse for impaired driving on any day of the year. If you choose to drive drunk in Sweetwater

County, you can expect a trip to jail.”

Law enforcement officials encourage everyone to do their part to keep the weekend a safe one. If you plan to celebrate with alcohol, seek out a designated driver who will not be drinking. If someone you are with has had too much to drink and is about to drive, stop them; they’ll thank you for it later. If you encounter a drunk driver on the road, call it in, including a description of the vehicle and a license plate number. (The REDDI program - Report Every Drunk Driver Immediately - has been responsible for many hundreds of arrests in Wyoming over the years.)

“Book a hotel room where you are celebrating, use a designated driver, or call a cab,” said Haskell, “but don’t drive drunk.”