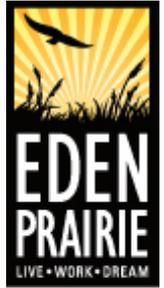


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EDEN PRAIRIE POLICE INCREASING PATROLS ON ST. PATRICK'S DAY

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. — The Eden Prairie Police Department urges citizens to have a plan for a safe and sober St. Patrick's Day. Police officers are stepping up patrols in search of those who drink too much and get behind the wheel this Saturday.

Over the last five years on St. Patrick's Day there have been nine motorists killed in Minnesota and four were alcohol-related. From 2002 through 2006 officers arrested 1,392 drunk drivers statewide on St. Patrick's Day. In 2006 alone, three out of the four deaths on St. Patrick's Day were caused by impaired drivers.

From 2001 through 2005 in Hennepin County, alcohol-related crashes killed 92 people, costing the County nearly \$100 million. More than 35,000 motorists were arrested for DWI in Hennepin County during this period. From 2001 through 2005, there were 1,079 alcohol-related traffic deaths in Minnesota which cost the state \$1.1 billion.

"Line up a designated driver before you hit the pub," said Sgt. Jamie Good. "Eden Prairie police will have additional patrols out to help do our part in keeping the community safe."

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