March 2014

Campus Beat

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San Joaquin County Jail
03-17-2012

A little jig, a pot of gold, won’t get you out of this one!

Sober drivers are your lucky charm.
Going out for St. Patrick’s Day?

Hints to keep you safe and happy.

- Designate your sober driver before the party begins and give that person your car keys.
- Don’t starve yourself before or during the party, enjoy the food as well as the drink.
- Avoid drinking too much alcohol too fast, pace yourself, eat, take breaks, alternate with non-alcoholic beverages.

Hosting a party?

- Serve lots of food—high protein dishes—include non-alcoholic beverages, desserts and coffee.
- Be sure all guests designate their sober drivers in advance.
- Take the keys away from anyone who is thinking of driving while impaired.

As a host, you are ultimately responsible for your guests safety. You can be the lucky charm!!
DO YOU HAVE “ICE” ON YOUR CONTACT LIST?

If you carry a mobile device, input a new contact titled “ICE” with the phone number of your parent, spouse or guardian. ICE stands for “IN CASE OF EMERGENCY” and is something all paramedics utilize when searching for an identity or a method to contact a family member in times of emergency.

Cell phones are capable of offering amazing options. Only you can keep yourself safer by adding ICE to your contact list.

Please take a moment and update your contact list.
Deaths blamed on drivers using hand-held mobile phones were down 47 per cent during the first four years of a driver mobile phone ban in California. Source: The Daily Telegraph

CALIFORNIA'S nearly four-year-old ban on drivers using handheld mobile phones is saving lives, according to a University of California, Berkeley, study.

The study released overnight found that overall traffic deaths dropped 22 per cent, while deaths blamed on drivers using hand-held mobile phones were down 47 per cent.

Deaths among drivers who use hands-free phones dropped at a similar rate. The university's Safe Transportation Research and Education Centre examined deaths for two years before and two years after the mobile phone ban took effect in July 2008. It found a similar drop in injuries attributed to drivers' mobile phone use.

The number of deaths among drivers using hand-held phones fell from 100 to 53 during that period, while the number of injuries dropped from 7720 to 3862.

The California Office of Traffic Safety, which sought the study, said deaths and injuries are declining in part because of an overall decrease in drivers using mobile phones. An unrelated survey commissioned by the state last northern summer found 40 per cent of drivers say they talk less while driving since the ban took effect, even if they have a legal hands-free device. The California survey, which included 1801 drivers 18 and over at petrol stations in 15 counties, tracked a similar finding in 2010 by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety.

The institute's survey found that 44 per cent of drivers in states with mobile phone bans said they don't use their phones while driving, compared with 30 per cent in states that let drivers use hand-held mobile phones.

Two previous studies, one by the nonprofit RAND Corp and another by an affiliate of the insurance institute, found no overall reduction in vehicle crashes after the mobile phone law took effect. The university said its study is the first to look specifically at collisions involving mobile phone use. The university findings surprised neither critics nor supporters of the state law.

``When you ban something, you're going to have less of it,'” said Republican senator Doug LaMalfa. "Of course the numbers are going to go down.”

Instead of looking for illegal mobile phone use, LaMalfa said police should be on watch for erratic drivers no matter if they are distracted by mobile phones, putting on makeup, shaving, or changing compact discs in a stereo system. The Department of Motor Vehicles reported 460,487 handheld mobile phone convictions last year, up 52 per cent from the 301,833 convictions in 2009.