

## **OPD will amp up patrol to stop those driving under the influence**

Written by Jessica Salinas

(Omaha, Neb.) — The Omaha Police Department, in cooperation with Project Extra Mile and local law enforcement agencies, will participate in two nights of DUI operations March 10th and 11th. Enforcement will take place during the evening and nighttime hours, and will focus on youth impaired driving enforcement. The enforcement is in conjunction with St. Paddy's Day, where police see an uptick in drinking and driving.

Project Extra Mile is helping fund the operations. Project Extra Mile is a statewide network of community partnerships working to prevent and reduce alcohol-related harms.

“That’s our goal, to stop a lot of people. I ask if people go out drinking, please have a plan,” said Omaha Police Lieutenant Allen Straub. He says his unit has seen several injuries and deaths on the road and doesn’t want to see more.

“If you are in position you are drinking and you think you can drive please rethink your decision. Forty-five fatalities last year and a large number of those are alcohol related, please have a plan in place, have a designated driver,” said Lt. Straub.

Physician assistant Jessica Grosse at Think Whole Person Healthcare also encourages everyone to have a plan if they go out.

“More drinking holidays, it’s always good to have a plan in action. Keep track of how many drinks you are having, eat before going out and alternate with a nonalcoholic drink. Have an accountability partner or a safe driver for the night,” said Grosse.

Grosse says everyone has a different tolerance to alcohol. Someone's weight, height, drinking history and medications can all play a role on how alcohol processes through the body.

She recommends slowing down your drinking when you slur your words and lose coordination.