

# SAFETY TIPS: CELEBRATING MARDI GRAS



“Laissez les bons temps rouler” or ‘let the good times roll’ is a phrase widely used during Mardi Gras celebrations across the U.S. But before you partake in all the good times that Mardi Gras has to offer, it is important to remember that safety should remain your top priority.

To help keep all Mardi Gras revelers safe and the good times rolling, we recommend that you review these safety tips:

- **Keep a close eye on children.** If attending a Mardi Gras parade with your children, be sure to keep them close. Make sure they know to stay off the parade route and to never rush out in front of floats or marchers to grab beads or candy.
- **Designate a meeting point.** If attending a large parade or festival in a group or with children, designate a nearby landmark as a meeting point in case you become separated.
- **Practice Safe Parading.** Don't allow your children to run into the street or beyond barricades. Never follow behind floats, bands or other participants. Never throw items at the float riders.
- **Check Candy.** Often, candy is thrown from floats. Check to ensure it's safe for your child to eat and the wrapper is intact.
- **Plan ahead.** Before you indulge in any adult libations, be sure to formulate a plan to get home safely. Designate a sober driver, call a cab or rideshare service, or make plans to stay overnight.
- **Report drunk drivers.** If you suspect someone on the road could be drunk, call 911 immediately.
- **Don't let friends drive drunk.** If a friend has had too much to drink, don't let them get behind the wheel. Take their keys and help find them a safe ride home.
- **Always wear your seatbelt.** The best defense against injury in a crash with a drunk driver is a seatbelt.